

Principal
Lenayn Janusz
Assistant Principal
Deb Coolidge

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Big Hollow Elementary Gazette



Volume 1, Issue 2

October 1, 2011

Great Beginnings

We have had a wonderful first month of school! The students are continuing to learn the routines of the school and classroom. Mrs. Janusz and Mrs. Coolidge are filling buckets of the students every morning as they come into school and they are filling ours with their warm greetings and smiling faces. Already this year many things have been happening. There have been opportunities for parents to visit their students classroom during Meet and Greet and Curriculum Night. It was wonderful to see so many parents here learning about their child's educational setting. Third grade classes have gone on a Volo Bog field trip. We have had our first fire drill.

This is the time of year when the leaves start changing, the days get shorter, the weather starts cooling and we

start spending more time indoors. Reading with your children is a pleasurable way to spend some of your indoor time. Reading aloud to your child 20 minutes a day provides essential skills for success. This reading time strengthens



relationships, promotes attention and curiosity, and improves listening and language skills. It is never too early or too late to begin reading aloud to your child. I would like to tell you a true story of a parent who had always read aloud to her children. When Harry Potter

first came out she read the book aloud to her children and they loved it. She continued to read each new Harry Potter book out loud to the children. This may not seem special in any way many people have done this. The interesting part is that when the final book came out the youngest child still at home was now in high school. That child was encouraged by the parent to read the final book on his own. The child replied "You have to read it to me the voices of the characters are yours, it just doesn't read the same." So the parent and the child sat together for hours, parent reading and child listening to the final book. That is a testament to the power of reading aloud and the memories that it makes.

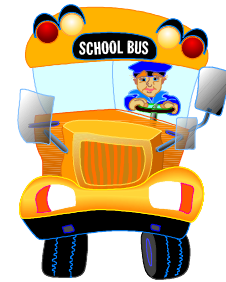
BIG HOLLOW
SCHOOL
DISTRICT #38
ELEMENTARY
PHONE:
847-740-5321

Website:
bighollow.us

Bus Safety and Guidelines

Thank you for your patience as we work out the logistics of the afternoon buses. Riding the bus is a privilege and we want all students to have an enjoyable ride on the bus. It is important that all students know and understand the expectations for a safe ride. Be aware that bus drivers will not drop off Kindergarten and First grade students unless there is an adult present at the bus stop. Please review these guidelines with your child.

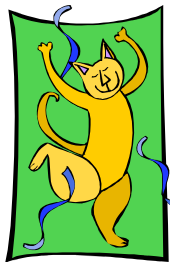
- Arrive 5 minutes early at your designated stop.
- Stay off the roadway while waiting for the bus.
- Stay seated while the bus is in motion.
- Keep voices and noise at a safe level.
- Be absolutely quiet when approaching railroad tracks.
- Do not throw anything out the bus window.
- Keep hands and head inside the bus at all times.
- Keep backpacks and feet out of the aisle.
- Be courteous to the bus driver and other bus riders.
- Do not ask the driver to stop at places other than the regular bus stops



- If it is necessary to cross the street, do so 10 feet in front of the bus when the bus driver indicates it is safe to cross.
- A bus incident report will be submitted for inappropriate behavior on the bus and a parent will be notified.**

Character Education Week

Character Education Week begins October 17 – 21, 2011. During this week we will be celebrating our good character with a theme for each day.



Monday, 10/17- “Roll Out of Bed and Come to School”- wear your pajamas or comfy clothes day.

Tuesday, 10/18- “Crazy About School”-crazy clothes/clash day i.e. wear your plaids with your stripes etc.

Wednesday, 10/19- “Good Sports Come to School”- wear your favorite sports

team shirt or club/scout uniform.

Thursday, 10/20- “Attendance Dance Party”- when you hear the music during the day get up and dance/move.

Friday, 10/21- Bring a “friend” to school- bring a stuffed/non-living animal to school. It must stay in your backpack

Walk-a-thon T-shirts

Students and parents are still welcome to turn in orders for walk-a-thon t-shirts on Monday, October 3, however the picture will be slightly different than originally shown. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Provo at 847-740-5321, extension 4202.



October 2011 - Important Dates

- 1st - Clothing Resale, 8:00 a.m.-12:00a.m. Primary Gym
- 3rd - PTO Meeting 4:00 p.m. Primary
- 5th- Market Day, 5:00 p.m. Middle School
- 7th- Spirit Wear Day/Popcorn Day, Elementary
- 10th - No School
- 17th - Board Meeting, 7:00 Middle School
- 25th - First Quarter Ends
- 28th - Report Cards Go Home
- 31st- Halloween Party, check with teacher for time Book Fair, Primary/Elementary



Parents: Please access the District's website frequently to stay up-to-date on current events in the district and access the Elementary website for build-

Hot Lunch a BIG hit for Second Grade

Second grade students love hot lunch. They have written about some of their favorite lunch choices;

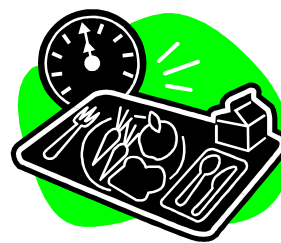
Mrs. Stump's class says, My favorite hot lunch is spaghetti meat balls - Kristel, My favorite hot lunch is pizza. Erick & Vanessa, My favorite hot lunch is pizza dippers. - Peyton, My favorite lunch is pizza. I love pizza. - Kayla, My favorite lunch is popcorn chicken. - Blake, Lindsey, Skye, & Sky.

My favorite hot lunch is French toast. - Lauren, My favorite hot lunch is corndogs! - Samantha. Hot lunch continues to be a great choice for these second graders.

Ms. Huemann's class says, My favorite hot lunch is pizza dippers and marinara sauce. -Zohair, My favorite hot lunch is chicken nuggets with animal shaped cookies. -

Bradley

My favorite hot lunch is popcorn chicken. -Charlie My favorite hot lunch is tacos. - Emily C. My favorite hot lunch is pizza. -Kyle



Important Student Information

Please make sure that you update your student's information. If you change jobs, phone number or address it is important to notify the office. In case your student gets sick or the teacher needs to contact, you the

contact information must be current. In order to receive email updates from your child's teacher or the district an email address must be on file in the office.

School Hours

9:00- 3:45

Office Hours

8:45-4:15

Character Trait of the Month- RESPECT

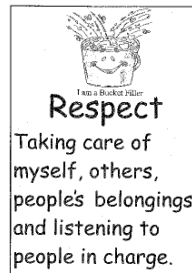
by Mrs. Kretsch

In order to support positive behavior within our school, we are offering monthly classroom groups to all teachers. These groups focus on the character trait of the month, the bucket philosophy, stop and think program and any other topics relevant to our school or that are state mandated. This month's character trait is Respect. The definition we are presenting is: Taking care of myself, others, people's belongings and listening to people in charge. The lesson is focused on listening and paying attention to others. Classes will be taught 3 steps to be successful:

1. Look
2. Hear
3. Do.

They need to use their eyes to look at the person talk-

ing, use their ears to hear the person talking and respond by making eye contact, smiling, nodding head, asking a question or making a comment. To enhance their understanding, we will



teach what respect/paying attention looks like, sounds like and feels like. The bucket philosophy and stop and think skills will be immersed within this lesson. These skills will also be modeled and then the students will demonstrate their

understanding by role playing with a peer. We will also begin lessons with doing the Melt. The Melt is an activity to help them focus and get ready to learn. It is a combination of relaxing and balancing their right and left brain. Ask your child to teach you how to take deep breaths!! Students are also encouraged to use the Melt when they are angry, sad or frustrated. These groups are presented by Donna Kretsch, School Social Worker (ext. 4113) or Lisa Regan, School Psychologist (ext. 4242). Please contact us with any questions and remember that September 29th is Respect day so wear blue to school .

We are Learning A Lot in Second Grade



We have learned many new things in second grade. In Science we learned about force and motion. Daily 5 is cool! It helps us be better readers. Spelling helps us write better sentences. We made fact family fish bowls. Second grade is great!

By Mrs. Stump's 2nd Grade Class

One thing I learned this year was math.

By Jonathan 2-O

Tumblebooks

by Ms. Gluzinski

Last year the school wrote a PTO mini grant for an animated reading website called Tumblebooks. Tumblebooks is a great resource for any age. There is a wide range of genres and books that are appropriate for toddlers through high school age teenagers. There is even a link for books to be read in various languages! The books are animated and sometimes read by the author. My kids love 50 Degrees Below Zero, a book written by Robert Munsch and read aloud by him. He has quite a voice

for reading and makes the book extremely fun for the kids to listen to and read. This website is great because not only can be it used at school, but you can access it at home! The site is very user friendly, and kids can navigate through it without your attention. This is a great site for kids to listen



to fluent readers, have fun with books, and grow a new love of reading. There are also games and comprehension questions your child can use as well. Check out Tumblebooks.com, and click the library link. You can contact your teacher for the username and password. Some teachers may also allow this time spent listening to or reading the books as minutes on your child's reading log.

Stop and Think

Stop and Think, a social skills program being taught in physical education classes, is designed to help students become more successful socially, academically, and behaviorally. Lessons follow a stop and think process where students are taught to think about how they will handle situations before acting. Students ask themselves if they want to make a good choice or a bad choice and think about the steps needed to

make a good choice. Then they consider the consequences of their choices and put their plan into action.

Students learn how to listen and follow direction, ask for help, ignore distractions, and how to deal with teasing. Interpersonal communication, problem-solving, and conflict resolution skills are also taught. Over time and with practice, students will be able to make good choices more often and more independently.

We have discussed lunchroom and table manners with students in the first week. Next week students will learn how to respectfully communicate with adults and peers.



3rd Grade Goes to Volo Bog

Priya, Samantha, Abby, Libby, Analise, Michael, Conner, Austin, and Liam in 3A

On Thursday, September 22nd Mrs. Russell's and Mrs. Axelsson's third grade classes went to Volo Bog. In the morning, we learned about bats. Did you know that one bat can eat up to 600 mosquitoes in an hour? Most bats are not blind. Bats use echolocation to communicate with each other. In the afternoon we learned about insects and spiders. We learned that spiders have two



body parts and insects have three body parts. We all went outside to catch different insects. Our classmates, Austin and Conner, even caught a praying mantis! Jade's favorite part was when the boys caught the praying mantis. Caz liked

when a spider ate a fly. Ana liked catching the squash bug, which was one of the biggest beetles. Samantha thought the bat movie was really cool, Abby liked catching a moth, and Priya's group caught a shield bug. Volo Bog was so much fun that we hope that we can go again next year! (All third grades attended Volo Bog during the month of September)

3rd Grade Says Thanks

Mrs. Finn's 3rd Grade Class

Dear John and Stacy,
Thank you very much for teaching us at the Volo Bog. I learned a lot about bats and insects. I like bugs more. Bats are cooler than I thought.
From, Emma D.

Dear John and Stacy,
Thank you for teaching us about bugs and insects. I loved the game that we played. I liked catching the bugs and sweeping. I had a great time and I didn't want to leave.
From, Sean M.

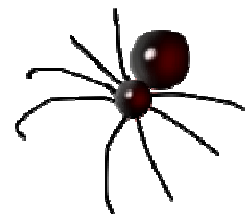


Dear John and Stacy,
Thank you for teaching us about bugs and bats. I liked sweeping and putting the bugs in the jar. I had fun at the Volo Bog. I like the bat moth game. It was fun!
From, Maddy K.

Dear John and Stacy,
Thank you for teaching me about bats, insects, and spiders. I thought the bat video was interesting. I think making bat masks was fun. I think sweeping up spiders and insects was super super fun. I think learning is super fun!
From, Seager J.

Dear John and Stacy,
Thank you for teaching us about bus and insects. One of my favorite parts was sweeping for bugs. I had an awesome time.
From, Jason C.

Dear John and Stacy,
Thank you very much for teaching us at the Volo Bog. I saw lots of spiders in the grass. I loved the bats too. I also had a great time.
From, Sammi K.



It's Not Too Late To Join the Band!!!

Lessons are starting for the 4th Grade Beginning Band, and this is a very exciting time for the young music makers. Your child can still be a part of this unique experience! Group lessons are given twice each week and your child will have the opportunity to play in at least three concerts this year. No experience is necessary. Tuition cost is \$495.00 for the year, which is billed in 9 monthly installments of \$55.00. That works out to only a little over \$6.00 per lesson. There is no long-term financial commitment; you only pay for the months your child is

in the band. If needed, we also offer a rent to own instrument program. Most instruments rent for \$34.00 per month (saxophones rent for \$49.00/month). We need students to play any of the instruments below. It makes for a better sounding group to have a few of each in the group. Could your child be one that will help us out? I hope so! Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Drum/Bells. I would love to include him/her in your school's program! Please talk with your child and call **Music Education Services** at (847)805-1800 to register. **In order to make it more affordable,**

Ms. Reis, Director of Bands

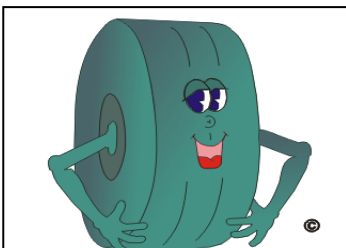
some reduced rental instruments may be available. Tuition Scholarships may also be available. Please give us a call, we will find a way to get your child in band.

kreis@thecrescendo.com,
815.529.7176



Bus Stop Safety

Although we have had no reports of attempted abductions in or around our area, the information to discuss with your child is valuable. A rash of attempted child abductions at school



bus stops across the country reminds us of the importance to reinforce the "stranger danger" message to our students.

One of the first rules of school bus safety **is for kids to stay away from strangers.**

Toby Tire reminds students to stay away from strangers. Moreover, if a stranger bothers a child while the student is waiting for the school bus,

the child should report the incident immediately to the school bus driver once the bus arrives.

With your youngest students who may not yet understand what a stranger is, here's an easy way for them to remember:

A stranger is a grown-up whose name you don't know.

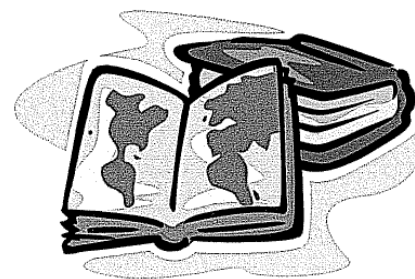
Big Hollow PTO Connections

Contact Us!

We'd love to hear from you with your ideas on more events and exciting programs for our students at Big Hollow. Our PTO Officers can be reached through the following contact information. Please join us at our monthly PTO Meetings as we discuss the upcoming events and look for more ways to get parents and students involved in our Big Hollow community.

President.....Tammy Cernuska..... tammycernuska@yahoo.com
 1st VP.....Renee Zawadzki.....rzawadzki@sbcglobal.net
 2nd VP.....Kathy Gibson.....samtherott@yahoo.com
 Secretary.....Kim Christesen.....kchristesen@hotmail.com
 Treasurer.....Chuck Kramer.....mkramer12@comcast.net

September 2011



What Is PTO?

The Big Hollow Parent-Teacher Organization is a group of parents and Big Hollow teachers and staff who work together to benefit our students and our school. We provide additional educational, cultural, and social experiences for our Big Hollow community through funding for additional programs and classroom materials.

The PTO sponsors a variety of fundraisers and events aimed at bringing our community together for the benefit of our children. Our programs are made possible through the support and participation of volunteers both at home and at school.

For more information on our programs or how you can get involved, please visit the school website at www.bighollow.us and click on the "Parents" tab to find our PTO site.

Innisbrook and Spirit Wear Sales

Our first major fundraiser of the school year is coming to a close this month. Innisbrook catalogues went home at the beginning of September. Products ranging from wrapping paper and bows to candles, candy, and more are available and our school earns big profits on each sale. Students also earn prizes with each item sold. Orders should be submitted online and payment made to Big Hollow PTO. In a few weeks, items will be delivered to school for pick up.

Big Hollow shirts, sweatshirts, and more can be purchased for students to show their school pride. On the first Friday of each month, students are encouraged to wear our school colors (blue and white) or their Big Hollow spirit wear.

For more information or questions regarding these fundraisers, please contact **Kathy Gibson** at 847-546-2012.



Market Day

This fundraiser is held on the first Wednesday of each month. Market Day offers a wide selection of food products with a portion of each sale going to our school. Volunteers are always needed on delivery day beginning in the afternoon to unload the truck and organize customer orders for pick up. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Heather Rose at 847-271-3046.

Back to School Bingo

Our first PTO sponsored event occurred on Friday, September 16. Bingo Night was a huge success as students, teachers, friends, and families gathered to mark their Bingo cards and choose from a full prize table to gently used toys. We served lemonade, popcorn, and tons of smiles throughout the evening. A special thank you to all of our Bingo Night volunteers and teachers for helping us start our school year with so much fun and laughter!



Upcoming Events

Friday, Sept. 30	4:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Clothing Resale
Saturday, Oct. 1	8 am – 12:00 pm	Clothing Resale
Monday, Oct. 3	4:00 pm	PTO Meeting
Wed., Oct. 5	5:00 pm	Market Day
Friday, Oct. 7	(Elementary)	Popcorn Day
Friday, Oct. 7	(Middle School)	Freezy Friday
Monday, Oct. 17	7:00 pm	School Board Mtg
Friday, Oct. 28		Middle Sch Dance
Monday, Oct. 31	(Primary Gym)	Book Fair Begins

Volunteer of The Month

During each monthly PTO meeting, we randomly pick one Volunteer and one Teacher for a special \$25 Target gift card. Be sure to volunteer each month to enter your name to win!

September Winners

Teacher: Ms. Dawn Smith
 Volunteer: We will draw our first winner on Oct. 3

Treats for Teachers

A special Thank You to all of our volunteers who helped provide some tasty treats and warm smiles to all of our Big Hollow teachers and staff at the Primary, Elementary, and Middle School buildings on Friday, September 23. The teachers and staff truly enjoyed all of the wonderful goodies which were set out for them throughout the day to say **Thank You** for all the work done to make our children love learning.

There is much to do at Volo

Highlights:

Bird Seed Sale Order Form available from www.FriendsofVoloBog.org
Prepaid orders due October 30th

Ghost Stories registration is open - **Only 20 of 100 car passes left!**

Photo Contests -

Moraine Hills - Last Chance to Vote - through this Friday, September 30th at 3:00 p.m.
Volo Bog SNA - Entry form attached; entry deadline October 14

Veterans' Conservation Corps Inaugural Meeting October 1

Teacher Workshop in November

Plus - Bird Walks, Book Discussions, Astronomy Nights, Photo Club, and much more!

Autumn Programs at Volo Bog State Natural Area Moraine Hills State Park & McHenry Dam

We've got a lot to choose from - hope to see you here!

Most programs are FREE - Donations are happily accepted by the sites' associated Friends groups.
For membership and other information visit www.FriendsofVoloBog.org and www.FriendsofMoraineHillsStatePark.org

Reservations are requested for most programs (and required for some)
Phone 815-344-1294 or email dnr.volobog@illinois.gov

Limited drop-ins usually welcome but...program may be cancelled if minimum registration is not met 24 hours prior.

For more information on the wonderful programs they offer throughout the year go to the Volo Bog website.