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November 2023 Newsletter



Upcoming Events

Enrichment: Day of the Dead

November 1 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

Enrichment: Flag Football

November 1 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

Enrichment: Frogs & Salamanders

November 2 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

November LINK Meeting

November 2 - 7:00pm

Scholastic Bookfair

November 6 - 9

Enrichment: Fall Agility

November 6 - 3:00 - 4:30pm

Enrichment: Flag Football (Girls)

November 7 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

Enrichment: Animal Hospital

November 7 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

Enrichment: Flag Football (Girls)

November 8 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

Enrichment: Fall Agility

November 13 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

Enrichment: Pumpkin Centerpieces

November 13 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

Enrichment: Flag Football (Girls)

November 14 - 3:00 - 4:10pm

Enrichment: Flag Football (Girls)

November 15 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

Enrichment: Stuffed Turkey

November 16 - 3:00 - 4:30pm

Enrichment: Fall Agility

November 20 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

Enrichment: Cheer Camp

November 21 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

Turkey Trot

November 22 - 9:30 - 11:00am

Enrichment: STEM Beginnings (3-5)

November 27 - 3:00 - 4:10pm

Enrichment: Are You Ready for It?

November 29 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

Enrichment: Toto the Tornado Kitten

November 30 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

Enrichment: Winter Slime

December 1 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

December LINK Meeting

(Tuesday) December 5 - 7:00pm

A Time for Reflection & Gratitude

It's hard to believe that we're already reaching the end of Fall and contemplating the winter ahead! Yet here we are with daily routines figured out, sports seasons ending (and others just beginning!), and parent-teacher conferences on the horizon. We have so much to be grateful for as a community, so let us start by thanking you.

To each of our BMS families - **thank you** for being engaged in your children's school lives and supporting all of the "extras" that make their school experiences more meaningful and rich. Thank you for helping us show gratitude and appreciation to our staff and teachers. And thank you for volunteering to help out (or lead!) an enrichment class and participate in community events.

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the Schartner Farm Family Fun Night. Special thanks to volunteers Emily & JR Manuel, Jackie Thornton, Jen & Mike Totman, Brittney Caswell, Jill Johnson, and Melissa Brodeur. Additional thanks to Laura Williamson and Mack Louh who volunteered their time on the organizing committee to make this event a success.

Together we do great things for our kids and for our community. May this season of reflection and gratitude be filled with moments of peace and offer you time for restoration.

November brings with it our Scholastic Book Fair, the annual BMS Turkey Trot and loads of exciting enrichment activities. Read on for more of this month's exciting activities!



SHOUT-OUT to all the Dads showing up for their kids this past month. Our two volunteers of the month are dedicated dads. And we've had Jan Schejbalova, Brian Burns, Chip Durant, Mark Adams, and Nate Tretnik come to meetings, volunteer on committees, support events, and help out at enrichment.

A parent-teacher organization thrives on the efforts of ALL our volunteers! Moms, Dads, Grandparents, family-friends. We welcome you ALL to participate!

About LINK

LINK is the gathering of parents and teachers to support and sustain Berlin Memorial student success! Whether you want to volunteer at an event; offer an exciting enrichment program bringing new and interesting learning experiences to our students; or become involved in the planning and management of LINK activities; there is a place for you here. Welcome!

linkberlinbms@gmail.com

www.bmslink.org

Volunteers of the Month

The LINK, Inc. November Volunteers of the Month start with Mack Louh! Mack, is the father to third grader Alex and sixth grader Sophia. He has been a prominent voice bringing new ideas to life with LINK. This year so far, Mack has stepped in and arranged lights for our Welcome dance, participated in the Schartner Farm event committee, and generally been there when the call for help is made. Mack's track record of involvement and support is unmatched. Thank you Mack!

We also recognize Jason Rowell as a November Volunteer of the Month! Jay is father to second grader Graham. Without hesitation he took on the challenge of wrangling young kids into a safe and fun series of football days. He engaged them in learning a new sport, practicing safe ways of competing, and kept everyone having a good time in this enriching experience. Thank you Jason!

LINK is an organization that makes amazing things happen for our BMS students with the helping hands from volunteers. We are grateful to all who supported the activities and events in November! If you want to participate, be sure to visit our website for the latest opportunities to get involved.



It's Time for the Scholastic Book Fair

For super cool, book-loving nerds, book fairs have always been a big deal! Back in the day, your most valuable worldly possessions included a furry diary and a new hardcover book that Mom wanted to return because you "read it too fast." At the Book Fair you could browse, buy, and bask in the glory of all those gorgeous covers while finding out about a new series by your favorite author! How about all those pens, stickers, and notebooks you didn't need but had to have? There are some things you'll only understand if you loved (or still love) Scholastic Book Fairs with all your heart, and this month, it's time to let our kids create book fair memories of their own.



Now that times have modernized a bit... set your kid up with his or her own E-wallet. This allows them to "shop" during their classes designated time and purchase the books and trinkets of their choice. And/or have them create a "wish list" that they can leave behind for when YOU come shopping during the Parent-Teacher Conferences on Thursday, November 9th. Whether it becomes a holiday gift for your inspired reader, or a great-job-kid reward for working hard in school, their wishlist can be handy as you peruse the collection of books at our annual Scholastic Book Fair.

- Set-up your e-wallet at:**
<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/berlinmemorialschool>
- Fair Dates:** November 6 - 9, 2023
- Where:** The BMS Library (of course!)

We need a few helpers each day of the fair to assist our shoppers with their wish-lists and counting out change at the register. The Volunteer sign-up list is on our website at: www.bmslink.org.

Berlin Memorial Elementary School

Annual Turkey Trot



Wednesday, November 22,
9:30 a.m.
Sign-Up to Help!

www.bmslink.org



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Financial Corner

Current Account Balance (10/11/23): \$30,921

Expenditures to Date (10/11/23): \$2,067.49

Fundraising to Date (10/11/23): \$100

Upcoming Events/Expenses (estimated): \$5,250

- Teacher Startup \$3,000
- Scholastic/Time Magazine \$750
- Schartner Farm Family Night \$500
- Fall Cultural Show \$1000

...erwriter and Joint Bookrunner



Enrichment Program Updates & Information

(all programs register ONLINE at bmslink.org)

Enrichment scholarships are available for families in need. Please reach out to: linkenrichment@gmail.com. All inquiries will remain private.

Day of the Dead (Dia de los Muertos)

The annual Mexican celebration, Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead), is a time when families gather to honor and remember deceased loved ones. Students will use their creativity to paint skulls in vibrant colors. They will also make colorful cut paper decorations called papel picado.

Date: Wednesday, November 1st

Time: 3:00-4:15pm

Grades: K-5

Cost: \$15/person

Min 8/Maximum 16 students



Flag Football... For the Girls!

This is an opportunity for our girls to learn how to throw and catch the football. There won't be any tackle but there will be a lot of fun. This is a great opportunity for the girls to play without the boys!!

Dates: Tuesday & Wednesdays, November 7, 8, 14, & 15th

Time: 3:00-4:15pm

Grades: 2-5

Cost: \$10/student

Min 10/Maximum 16 students



Animal Hospital

Animals need our help! Come to our BMS "Animal Hospital" to rescue some (stuffed) animals. Students will practice rescuing animals, weighing them and giving them medicine. Each student will be able to take home a rescued stuffie at the end of the program.

Date: Tuesday, November 7th

Time: 3:00-4:15pm

Grades: K-5

Cost: \$8/student

Min 6/Maximum 12 students

Cost includes one stuffed animal. Additional funds will be donated to International Animal Rescue.



Pumpkin Centerpieces

Students will work with Gigi Stowe of Pine Ridge Farm to create a Pumpkin Centerpiece for a fall decoration just in time for your Thanksgiving table! Students will use flowers, leaves, and other autumnal decor for their own unique creation.

Date: Monday, November 13th

Time: 3:00-4:15pm

Grades: 2-5

Cost: \$20/student.

Min 10/Maximum 16 students





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Stuffed Turkey Scavenger Hunt

HELP!! Our Thanksgiving turkey is missing!! What is Thanksgiving with no TURKEY?!?! We need hunters to gather up turkey parts and put them all back together. Can you please HELP???. Students will work in teams on a scavenger hunt to find pieces to create a stuffed turkey. Each participant will leave with a cute stuffed Turkey for the Thanksgiving table.

Date: Thursday, November 16th

Time: 3:00-4:15pm

Grades: 1-5

Cost: \$15/student.

Min 8/Max 16 students



Cheer Camp

This is a one-time class offered by two Tahanto students who are cheerleaders and want to show the BMS students what cheer is all about. The students will learn some cheers and maybe some fun moves. There will be another 4-week session offered in March if there is enough interest.

Date: Tuesday, November 21

Time: 3:00-4:00pm

Grades: K-5

Cost: Free

Min 5/Maximum 15 students



STEM Beginnings (3-5)

STEM Beginnings will engage children in challenges that allow them to explore science, technology, engineering and math concepts. We will separate into two different age groups to offer fun and age appropriate challenges. Each session will be three weeks. **This session is for grades 3 - 5.**

Dates: Mondays, November 27, December 4, & 11

Time: 3:00-4:10pm

Grade: 3-5

Cost: \$66/student

Min 5/Maximum 12 students



Are You Ready for It?

This one is for the Swifties! We will create Friendship Bracelets while listening to all Taylor Swift's greatest hits. There will definitely be singing along with the bracelet making!!!

Date: Wednesday, November 29th

Time: 3:00-4:15pm

Grades: 1-5

Cost: \$10/student.

Min 8/Maximum 16 students.



Toto the Tornado Kitten is BACK!

On June 1st, 2011 a devastating F3 Tornado struck western and central Massachusetts, leaving a 37 mile path of destruction from Westfield to Charlton. In the wreckage of the hurricane, a tiny kitten was found that was only two weeks old. Jonathan Hall, a local EMT, nursed the kitten back to health naming him Toto. He eventually adopted Toto and wrote a book about their adventure. Students will have the opportunity to meet Jonathan and listen to his story. And...have a chance to meet Toto!

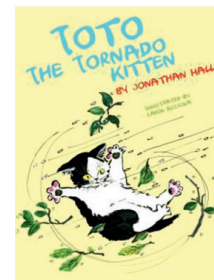
Date: Thursday, November 30th

Time: 3:00-4:00pm

Grades: K-5

Cost: The \$5 fee that will be given to local animal shelter

Min 10/Maximum 20 students



Winter is Coming...

All kids know how much parents hate the mess of making slime at home...so come and make some at school with your friends! Participants will make winter themed slime and decorate special slime jars to take home.

Date: Friday, December 1st

Time: 3:00-4:15pm

Grades: K-5

Cost: \$9/student

Min 8/Maximum 16 students

