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# February 2024 Newsletter

## Upcoming Events

### February LINK Meeting

February 1 - 7:00pm

### Enrichment: Winter Wildlife Tracking

February 1 - 3:00 - 4:30pm

### Enrichment: Blue Blocks (Session 1)

February 2 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

### Enrichment: Pony Bead Keychain

February 5 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

### Enrichment: Diamond Art Painting

February 6 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

### Enrichment: Crazy8 Math Club (K-2)

February 7 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

### Enrichment: Kinder Valentine Crafts

February 8 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

### Enrichment: Valentine Cards

February 9 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

### Enrichment: Valentine's Day Slime

February 12 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

### Enrichment: Crazy8 Math Club (3-5)

February 12 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

### Enrichment: Book Club

February 14 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

### Enrichment: Crazy8 Math Club (K-2)

February 14 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

### Appreciation Event: Let's Taco-Bout Our Staff & Teachers!

February 14

### Enrichment: Winter Wildlife Tracking

February 15 - 3:00 - 4:30pm

### Enrichment: Blue Block (Session 2)

February 16 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

### Enrichment: Volleyball Clinic

February 26 - 3:00 - 4:30pm

### Enrichment: Crazy8 Math Club (3-5)

February 26 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

### Enrichment: Book Club

February 28 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

### Enrichment: Volleyball Clinic

February 28 - 3:00 - 4:30pm

### Enrichment: Crazy8 Math Club (K-2)

February 28 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

### Enrichment: Winter Wildlife Tracking

February 29 - 3:00 - 4:30pm

### March LINK Meeting

March 7 - 7:00pm



## A Love Letter

*Roses are Red*

*Violets are Blue*

*Our BMS kids are really sweet,*

*Grab yours up in a hug and tell them it's true!*

As someone in our community shared recently, "it's harder to get a spot in enrichment than it is to get Taylor Swift tickets!" But our hope is that we can encourage more volunteers to join in the fun and open more seats for excited BMS kids. And our first month with the waitlists showed us that we could have twice as many programs if we had twice as many volunteers (and some more space)! The great news is that we learned to manage the system in January and got more people into more programs. The hope is that it will get easier and more effective as we all get used to the system. The GREAT NEWS - is that enrichment is a thriving and meaningful part of our children's learning experiences. That's a win!

Coming up in February we use Valentine's Day fun to show some appreciation to our teachers and staff. Your kids will come home with valentine's hearts to decorate and share messages of love with their favorite teachers and staff. Send them back to school to the collection box located across from Mrs. Rapa's desk. Come Valentine's Day the walls of the BMS halls will be covered with love! And, on that day our 2nd and 3rd grade families will host the appreciation event. Families - keep your eyes on your email boxes to sign-up and support how we "Taco-Bout How Much We Love Our Teachers & Staff!"

And - a Spring preview: March includes our Formal Family Dance (March 8), National Inclusive Week (March 11-15) and the Read-a-Thon! Mark your calendars for fun events on the horizon.

Valentine Treats will be at this month's LINK meeting. See you in the BMS Library at 7pm on the 1st! All are welcome.

## 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](mailto:linkberlinbms@gmail.com)

[www.bmslink.org](http://www.bmslink.org)

## Volunteer of the Month

The LINK, Inc. February Volunteer of the Month is Amanda Tedesco. Amanda is mom to first grader Killian and preschooler Lucy. She's been quick to organize, support and change-up the seasonal decorations, most recently altering our holiday decor by adding some Valentine love. She's also volunteered to support the math clubs for enrichment! Thanks Amanda!



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 December! If you want to participate, be sure to visit our website for the latest opportunities to get involved.

(hearts will come home Monday, Feb 5th!)



# RETURN YOUR VALENTINE HEARTS BY FEBRUARY 12TH!

(collection box across from Mrs. Rapa's desk!)

# LET'S TACO 'BOUT OUR TEACHERS & STAFF!

THEY'RE AMAZING!

**2nd & 3rd grade families:**

Sign-Up to support the appreciation event on **Wednesday, February 14th!** We need your help making a taco-bar come to life. The sign-up is on our website and will be sent via email. Check your in-box!



### Financial Corner

Current Account Balance (01/02/24): \$30,817.00

Expenditures to Date (01/02/24): \$5,600.46

Fundraising to Date (01/02/24): \$2,659.65

Upcoming Events/Expenses (estimated): \$4,000

- Family Paint Night
- Read-A-Thon
- Spring Cultural Show
- Spring Dance
- Whale Mobile



# Enrichment Program Updates & Information

(all programs register **ONLINE** at [bmslink.org](http://bmslink.org))

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

## Winter Wildlife Tracking

Join Heather Simpson of Hands on Nature in Berlin, MA for a 4-week session. Following animal's tracks can teach us a lot about who lives in our woods and their behavior. Students will search for animal tracks and identify which animals have been active and what they were up to. Students will explore the woods around the school to look for tracks and other signs from animals such as raccoons, foxes, coyotes, owls, turkeys, white-tailed deer and more! Please note, classes will be outside so appropriate dress is required.

**Date:** Thursdays, February 1, 15, 29 and March 7 (no class on Feb 8 or 22)

**Time:** 3:00-4:30pm

**Grades:** K-5

**Cost:** \$68 per student for 4-week session

**Min 6/Max 14**



## Blue Blocks Free Play

Have you seen the Blue Blocks at the school? Come and explore the different ways to play with these cool blocks. Working in teams students will work through a series of challenges to build different structures. They will also have some free time to let their creativity run wild.

**Multiple sessions offered. Please only sign up for one session.**

**Session Dates:** Friday, February 2; Friday, February 15; Friday, March 1

**Time:** 3:00-4:15pm

**Cost:** Free

**Grades:** K-5

**Min 5/Max 12**



## Pony Bead Keychain

Students will get creative with beading to make a unique keychain for themselves or a friend. Students can use these as backpack decorations or gifts for friends!

**Date:** Monday, February 5

**Time:** 3:00 - 4:15pm

**Grades:** 3-5

**Cost:** \$8/student

**Min 8/Max 16**



## Diamond Art Painting

Diamond art painting is like paint by numbers except with sparkling stickers! Students will create a couple unique stickers with this technique. It is a good opportunity to try out a new craft.

**Date:** Tuesday, February 6

**Time:** 3:00 - 4:15pm

**Grades:** 2-5

**Cost:** \$9/student

**Min 8/Max 18**



## Kindergarten Valentine's Day Crafts

Calling all Kinder Kids! Join us for an afternoon of Valentine's Day crafts specifically for the kindergarten crowd. As this is for the little ones, we will need to have lots of extra hands to help out. Parents, this is a great opportunity to come and help with an enrichment program.

**Date:** Thursday, February 8

**Time:** 3:00 - 4:15pm

**Grade:** K

**Cost:** \$8/student

**Min 6/Max 16**





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## Valentine Card Making

It's so hard for kids to surprise their parents with holiday love when parents are involved in the making of them. For THIS Enrichment only... we're going to tap into our Tahanto friends to help support our BMS students as they create Valentine's Day cards for the parents, grandparents, caregivers and teachers that they love! Lead by parent Beatriz Bailon, and supported with some of Tahanto's finest... this will truly provide a Valentine treat!



If you have a BIG KID that would want to help - please reach out to [linkenrichment@gmail.com](mailto:linkenrichment@gmail.com) to sign them up to help!

**Date:** Friday, February 9

**Time:** 3:00-4:15pm

**Cost:** \$5 per student

**Grades:** K-5

**Min 5/Max 24**

## Crazy8 Math Club (3rd - 5th grade)

Join Crazy8s Club where kids will build stuff, run and jump, make music, make a mess... a totally new kind of math club that will take the mystery and fear out of math and guarantee a whole lot of fun! This is an 8-week session lead by Coaches Shelley Sartini and Brian Burns. This session is geared especially for our third, fourth and fifth graders. *Curriculum provided by the Bedtime Math organization with proven outcomes of significantly reducing children's feelings of math anxiety after just eight weeks.*

**Date:** Mondays, February 12, 26; March 4, 11, 18, 25; and April 1, 8

**Time:** 3:00 - 4:15pm

**Cost:** \$40.00 per student for 8 sessions

**Grades:** 3-5

**Min 12/ Max 16**



## Valentine's Day Slime

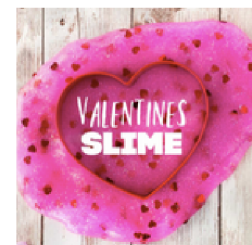
Slime is BACK! Students will have the opportunity to make some Valentine's Day themed slime to take home. This is a very popular program, so we ask that you only sign up if you have NOT done a slime program before.

**Date:** Monday, February 12

**Time:** 3:00 - 4:15pm

**Cost:** \$9/student

**Min 8/Max 18**



## Volleyball Clinic

Is your child interested in learning about volleyball? Coaches Sarah and Joy will be running a clinic on the foundations of volleyball. Your child will learn the following skills: passing, serving, setting, blocking, attacking, digging and positions. The first half of each session will focus on fundamentals and the second half will be spent playing volleyball games. This clinic will run for four sessions.

**Date:** Monday & Wednesdays, February 26, 28 & March 4, 6

**Time:** 3:00-4:30pm

**Cost:** \$25.00 per student for 4-week session

**Grades:** 4 & 5 only

**Min 6/Max 16**



March Enrichment Preview Available online: [www.bmslink.org/enrichment](http://www.bmslink.org/enrichment)