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# January 2024 Newsletter



## Upcoming Events

### Enrichment: Board Games

January 4- 3:00 - 4:15pm

### January LINK Meeting

January 4 - 7:00pm

### Enrichment: Musical Exploration

January 9 - 3:00 - 4:00pm

### Enrichment: Perler Beads

January 10- 3:00 - 4:15pm

### Enrichment: Taylor Swift Sing-a-Long

January 11 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

### Enrichment: Blue Blocks Free Play

January 16 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

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

January 17 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

### Enrichment: Snowman Scavenger Hunt

January 18 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

### Enrichment: Crystal Snowflakes

January 22 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

### Enrichment: Treasure Box Deco

January 24 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

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

January 24 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

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

January 31 - 3:00 - 4:15pm

### Enrichment: Basketball Clinic (3-4)

January ?? - 3:00 - 4:15pm

### February LINK Meeting

February 1 - 7:00pm

## Enrichment Edition - Updates & Info

Let's begin the new year with a huge shout-out to our Enrichment Coordinator Amy Laliberte and ALL of the enrichment program volunteers - those who run a program and those who offer their helping hands! Because of Amy and all of the support we get... our Fall semester saw an offering of 512 filled seats for enrichment! From crafts, to gardens, to golf, STEM and agility - our BMS students get exposed to new and unique opportunities that support creativity and learning both in and out of the classroom.

Considering we started enrichment again (post COVID) last November with only a couple of offerings... it's impressive to discover how much of our community we can serve with enrichment and how better we can manage it with the right tools in place.

With that in mind, and with the goal of bringing enrichment to as many of our BMS families as possible, LINK brainstormed some of the challenges and opportunities available to us and will try some new strategies that allow us to accomplish our goals of:

1. Enrolling as many unique students as possible in enrichment.
2. Opening more spots in each program and as many programs as space allows.
3. Ensuring that enrichment is affordable for ALL who want to participate.
4. Getting more adult volunteers ready to lead enrichment.

Read on in this newsletter to learn more about these new strategies and what it means for your student(s) and your involvement in enrichment programs throughout the remainder of the school year.

Finally, what's a new year without a look ahead to all of the exciting events to come?!? There is an article dedicated to sharing the 2024 highlights at BMS. Check it out!

## 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)

### Grades 3-5 Math Club needs a Coach!

All activities are planned and ready to go, you just need to make it happen one hour per week. We'd like to start in February.

Can we call you Coach?!?

Email: [linkenrichment@gmail.com](mailto:linkenrichment@gmail.com)

## Bringing Value to Our Kids Learning Experiences

There is something about staying with your parents that brings childhood memories front-and-center. My most formative memories are not of the hours in a classroom (a solid education in reading, writing, math and science for sure), but of the “extra” things that as a child just seemed part of the fabric of my every day life. For example, I got to participate in a two-day workshop that looked at the geological history of the Great Salt Lake basin and it’s salty-sandy bottom that the city’s tall buildings now rested on. Ripe for earthquake, the city’s engineers were working on how to shore up those buildings and I got to learn, plan, build and test models for just that possibility (3rd grade). I also remember a time when I was pulled from my regular class to participate in a “Trip to Hawaii” with the special education classroom. I was buddied up with a couple of students from that class and helped them as we all boarded a plane, danced the hula, tasted pineapple, and snorkeled through the pictures of fish on a wall (2nd grade). And, once a week from first grade through sixth, I was in a girl scout troop that either my Mom led, or co-lead. It’s this part of the story that matters the most.



As we were talking this holiday I realized that while I knew she was there, and running things, and we were doing it together, I took away a vast amount of experiences, knowledge, and curiosity that shaped how I see the world and my place in it. My full-time working Mother made that happen. And because she showed up, I was more fully and completely involved in those learning experiences.

There is a great amount of data that shows when a parent is involved in their child’s educational lives, the child does better – academically, emotionally, physically. My Mom did not have the work schedule to come to any of the daytime school activities. But she did find a way of setting that Thursday afternoon aside each week, to share in my learning, to share in our growth together. And man was it fun.

LINK’s goal with our enrichment program is to bring the “extra” to our BMS student’s lives. To help them experience something they wouldn’t otherwise, to express their creative side, to show them they can try new things, fail, learn and become more capable with each attempt. And, what a way to bring parents into the mix to add the magic to these moments!

We are so grateful to all of the parents who show-up. It’s because of you we can dream up new activities and events that enrich our whole community. If your working schedule doesn’t allow for daytime help, or visiting in the classroom, then find that hour a week, hour a month... and join your kid as an enrichment program volunteer. Show them that their school lives are important to you. Their world will be richer for it. And, man is it fun.



### Financial Corner

Current Account Balance (12/15/23): \$30,250.00

Expenditures to Date (12/15/23): \$4,469.05

Fundraising to Date (12/15/23): \$2,535.75

Upcoming Events/Expenses (estimated): \$3,380

Holiday Carnival (Enrichment)

Read-A-Thon

Spring Cultural Show

Whale Mobile



### Theater in the Spring!

Do you Sew? Paint? Build? Dance? Sing? Play an instrument? Wrangle children?!? Is there an artsy side to your kids that you know could use an outlet? Then THIS is your event.

**Sign-up now and help make a BMS theater production happen THIS SPRING!**

And, have a kid who would want to participate? Let us know. We need to get an idea of how many kids and what ages we have involved in order to pick the appropriate production.



# FAQ: Enrichment Info & Updates

**Question: How do you determine the cap for enrollment in each enrichment program?**

Answer: While most of the spaces that we use for enrichment would allow for a higher enrollment cap, the reason we keep the numbers small is because that is the number of students the confirmed volunteer program leader(s) can manage ON THEIR OWN.

Update: LINK, Inc. has purchased an upgrade to the Cheddarup.com enrollment system that will allow us to utilize a waitlist feature. Once a program has filled, we will reach out to those on the waitlist and IF we can get more adult volunteer support in place, then we can open the capacity of each program to the maximum the space allows.

**Question: How can I know what enrichment programs will be available for enrollment before I receive the monthly newsletter?**

Answer: Visit our website ([www.bmslink.org](http://www.bmslink.org)) and navigate to the “Enrichment” page. There you can click on any month’s banner to see what is, or will become, available at the enrollment time for that given month.

Update: In order to ensure people have adequate time to talk over options with their students before enrollment, in this new year LINK is working to schedule more enrollment programs ahead. Our goal is to work two month’s out (so publish both January and February). If we can get further ahead than that - we will! Keep checking the website for more updates and coming programs.

**Question: When does enrollment open for enrichment programs?**

Answer: The last Friday of the month for the next month’s programs (and sometimes the first week of the next month). Holiday months may differ.

Update: We know that a lot of working families have had a hard time getting into enrichment programs when enrollment opened at 3pm. Starting this January 2024, enrollment for the month’s enrichment programs will open at 7pm on the last Friday of each month. (January is different because of the holiday. February enrollment opens Friday, January 26 at 7pm.)

**Question: How does LINK determine what kind of enrichment programs to offer?**

Answer: Program offerings are based on the volunteers who step up to provide them! Some people are crafty. Others do sports really well. Some people are artists of one kind or another. We need YOU ALL to step up and offer your skills and interests in order to keep our enrichment programs broad, unique and exciting for our BMS students.

Update: Have an idea but not sure how to turn it into an enrichment program? No problem! Visit our website (<https://www.bmslink.org/enrichment-program-leaders-wanted/>) and fill out the interest form. Our enrichment coordinator will connect with you to think through the logistics and set you up for success. It is a surprisingly easy volunteer gig - we promise, if you can handle the bedtime rush/challenge at home, you’ve got what it takes to pull off an awesome enrichment program.

**Question: I have a young child, can I still volunteer to help out?**

Answer: Yes! Often we have volunteers come with their preschool kiddos and we wrap those kids into the mix. You’ll be surprised how well they keep up with the big kids, or we can adjust some of the activities to be a little easier for the little ones. Another plus? When they get to kindergarten at BMS... they’ll know the building, lots of the staff and many of the students already - a great way to be more comfortable in that big step into elementary school.

**Question: My BMS kid doesn’t want to do the program I can offer. What do I do with my kid?**

Answer: A BMS enrolled student (K-5) can attend the after-school care program for free while you are leading an enrichment program.

**Question: Is there financial help available for families who need it?**

Answer: Yes. We keep a scholarship fund available for exactly this reason. Families should reach out to: [linkenrichment@gmail.com](mailto:linkenrichment@gmail.com). All requests are kept confidential.



## Volunteers of the Month

The LINK, Inc. January Volunteer of the Month starts with Stephanie Cummings. Stephanie is mom to fourth grader Camryn and BMS graduate (now Tahanto kid!) Samantha. Stephanie supports enrichment BIG TIME by working with Cam (and her business) to bring Slime to our enrichment lineup. Stephanie is also a quick supporter and extra hands who steps up as often as possible. A huge community supporter in every way, we are grateful for helping hands that step in frequently. Thanks Stephanie!



We also recognize Beatriz Bailon as a January Volunteer of the Month. Beatriz is mom to first grader Jacob and third grader Xavier. She's been a steady hand at supporting LINK efforts from fundraisers and painting playgrounds in the summer, to being a voice of ideas and solutions during monthly LINK meeting conversations. Beatriz gets as hands-on with volunteering as time allows - and you won't have missed her this past December carnival as a festive elf! Thank you Beatriz!



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.



## Coming in 2024...

The start of 2024 brings with it cold weather, plenty of opportunity for winter adventures, and of course - a number of exciting LINK sponsored or supported events at BMS!

### January

We're looking to bring back Family Paint Night! With a new picture to paint and instructor lead support, let's see how many of our BMS families will share in this full-family activity.

### February

We're going to "Taco-Bout" how much we love our teachers and staff with the 2nd and 3rd grade supported appreciation event. We'll engage our whole BMS student body in sharing their love with take-home hearts to fill out and share messages of appreciation and love to put up all over the school.

### March

The Spring Dance is in the works with a new committee formed to make it happen. Look for sign-up and the date to come soon! We also have the Whale Mobile coming to BMS to help celebrate Earth Day and learn about one of our planet's most amazing creatures. The Read-a-Thon kicks-off to help us raise funds for next year's activities AND get our BMS students reading! Finally, with the whole district we celebrate National Inclusive Week. Lot's going on this month!

### March/April

Discovery Museum and Hands on Nature come to each of our BMS Classrooms for a unique and exciting learning experience.

### April

It's time for the Kindergarten and 1st Grade families to support our Teacher & Staff Appreciation event.

### May/June

End-of-year celebrations, field trips, and the school-wide Summer Send-Off.



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

## Board Game Afternoon

Ease into the New Year with a fun afternoon of board games with friends. Students will play a variety of board games in small groups.

**Date:** Thursday, January 4th

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

**Grades:** K-5

**Cost:** Free

Min 6/Maximum 16 students

**SOLD OUT**



## Musical Exploration

Is your kid a music lover or just curious about instruments? Come and join parent Luke Rosseel to explore different musical instruments. He will expose kids to multiple kinds of instruments, the different sounds they make and how they are played. Students will have some hands-on time with the instruments too!

**Date:** January 9

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

**Cost:** \$5.00 per student

**Grades:** K-5

Min 6/Maximum 16 students



## Perler Beads

Parent Liz Ford will be hosting another Perler Bead afternoon. Kids will use their creativity to create unique masterpieces. It's super fun to see what the kids come up with on their own!

**Date:** Wednesday, January 10

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

**Cost:** \$5 per student

**Grades:** K-5

Min 5/Maximum 15 students



## Taylor Swift Sing-A-Long

To all the Swifties! We will be hosting a sing-a-long afternoon with only Taylor Swift songs. No actual singing experience is required.

**Dates:** Thursday, January 11

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

**Cost:** Free

**Grades:** K-5

Min 5/Maximum 16 students



## Blue Blocks Free Play

Have you seen the Blue Blocks at school? We are offering an opportunity for students to come and explore the Blue 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.

**Date:** Tuesday, January 16

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

**Cost:** Free

**Grades:** K-5

Min 5/ Maximum 16





# 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.

## Crazy8's Math Club for K-2

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 Coach Jennifer Totman.

*Curriculum provided by the Bedtime Math organization with proven outcomes of significantly reducing children's feelings of math anxiety after just eight weeks.*

**Date:** Wednesdays, January 17, 24, 31; February 7, 14, 28; and March 6 & 13

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

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

**Grades:** K-2

Min 12/ Maximum 16



## Stuffed Snowman Scavenger Hunt

Didn't get an opportunity to help our Thanksgiving turkey find all its pieces... Well, lucky for you our Snowman is suffering a similar fate! The snowman is missing all its parts. Students will work in teams on a scavenger hunt to find the snowman pieces and then make their own stuffed snowman to take home!

**Date:** Thursday, January 18

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

**Cost:** \$15.00 Grades: 1-5

Min 8/Maximum 20 students



## Crystal Snowflakes

Students will use beautiful beads and crystals to create their own special snowflake. Each creation will be unique and beautiful... just like the students!

**Dates:** Monday, January 22

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

**Grades:** 1-5

**Cost:** \$12/student

Min 8/Maximum 16 students



## Treasure Box Decoration

Students will use paint, glitter, crystals, etc. to decorate their own mini treasure box. Each student will have an opportunity to create two boxes - one for them, and one for a friend or family member.

**Date:** Wednesday, January 24

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

**Cost:** \$5.00 per student

**Grades:** K-5

Min 8/Maximum 16



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