



BH-BL High School

PTSA Newsletter

FALL 2011

2011-2012 CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 14th
*PTSA Freshmen Parents &
Students Night, 6:45pm*

Wednesday, September 21st
Senior Portraits, 8:00-3:00

Thursday, September 22nd
Back-to-School Night, 7:00 pm

Friday, October 14th
Homecoming Dance, 7:00 pm

Saturday, October 15th
PSAT Exams, HS, 8:00 am
Homecoming Game,
2:00 pm kickoff

Sunday, October 16th
Craft Fair, 10:00-4:00

Monday, October 17th
"Taste of Burnt Hills" Dinner
High School, 6:00-8:30 pm

**Tuesday, October 18th &
Wednesday, October 19th**
Yearbook Pictures

Tuesday, October 26th
Board of Ed., Stevens, 7:30 pm

Monday, November 7th
PTSA Meeting, 7:00 pm
Principal's Conference Room

Please refer to your school calendar for additional events. If you did not receive a calendar contact the main office or print it from our website at:
<http://www.bhbl.org/calendar/calendar1.htm>

From High School Principal Maryellen Symer



Mrs. Maryellen Symer

Welcome to the 2011-12 school year. This past summer there were several renovation projects completed at the high school as a result of the December 2009 energy conservation referendum. New windows were installed in several areas of the high school, our heating system is now fully controlled through a computerized system designed to save energy, roofing is still being completed, and work continues on a few other projects. Our school year began with three days of professional development for administrators, faculty, and staff. Students arrived for a full day on Wednesday, September 7th and high school students are already involved in after-school extra-curricular activities and interscholastic athletic events.

The following instructional staff joined the high school team replacing retirees or filling leaves of absences:

Christopher Rice, English	Travis Dillabough, Social Studies
Lucey Chesley, Mathematics	Monique Cohen, Social Studies
Michelle Connolly, Mathematics	Kathryn Henry-Starace, Health (Part Time)
Colleen McCormack, Mathematic	JoAnn Tanzer, Science (Part Time)
Lori Kruger, Special Education	

Communication between school and home will positively contribute to your child's success in high school. This year high school teachers will be using an electronic grade book and at the start of the second semester, a parent portal will be implemented that will provide you with electronic access to information about your child's progress in academic classes. Additional details about the parent portal will be communicated to you during the school year.

If you have not done so already, please review the Student Handbook that is contained in the student agenda with your child. There is a new section, "Dignity for All," that defines bullying and addresses consequences. Parents can assist by reviewing the handbook and discussing expectations with their child(ren).

Parents are asked *not* to call or text student cell phones during the instructional day. If you need to get a message to your child, please contact the main office. Continued on page 4

Check Out the School Website For Your Information Needs

Check out the High School website for all your information needs, including the student handbook, the online version of the newsletter, and a staff directory.
<http://bhbl.org/HighSchool/bhblhs.htm>

BH-BL High School PTSA Officers

Laurie Kruppenbacher
PTSA President
399-7034
kruppenbacher.lt at verizon.net

Lynnette Ziskin
PTSA Vice-President
384-3737
lynnettez at earthlink.net

Martha Hainey Flacke
PTSA Secretary
399-2266
president at BurntHillsRowing.com

Theresa Brenon
PTSA Treasurer
399-5469
tsbrenon at aol.com

Patre Kuziak
School Board Liason
399-2982

Mary Beth Frewin
PTA Council Representative
669-7374

Barb Becker, PTSA Membership
399-3775
kevsmom1 at hotmail.com

Laura Foster, PTSA Newsletter
384-1407
dlfoster5 at nycap.rr.com

Debbie Cummings
PTSA Pie Fundraiser
399-3976

**Martha Hainey Flacke &
Lynnette Ziskin**
Prom & Afterglow

Lisa Read, Odyssey of the Mind
399-9825
lsrr11 at aol.com

Donna Shorkey, School Pictures
885-0919
ddshork88 at msn.com

Judith Duma
Teacher Recognition Luncheon
374-4595
jmt777 at yahoo.com

From PTSA President Laurie Kruppenbacher



It is hard to believe but it is back to school time again!!! Aristotle tells us that we are the sum of our actions and motivation. His words resonate with me personally. As an educator, I appreciate the premise that an individual's cumulative actions can result in a fantastic end product. As we begin another school year I ask that you think about how your actions can result positively here at BH-BL HS. Our goal is to provide the best education for our students. To succeed we need your **HELP**.

HELP! Four letters that can mean so much. Four letters that can be seen as a dynamic, planned action - or as a plea!

Collectively we can get amazing results. BH-BL excellence is the sum of all our actions and that each student, parent, teacher, staff member & Board member have all acted together to further enhance and develop motivation and excellence in our school. We as parents can **HELP** to continue giving selflessly and enthusiastically to our school and students by volunteering to **HELP** on a committee, supporting our fundraisers, attending meetings and school events. I challenge you to choose one area to give your time and expertise and enjoy the results of your efforts.

The 2011-2012 school year is primed for excellence here at BH-BL. We look forward to getting to know you, learning from you and appreciate your **HELP**.

Privileged to **HELP** alongside you:

Laurie Kruppenbacher
PTSA President & Officers

BH-BL High School PTSA 2011-2012 Meeting Schedule:

We meet on the 1st Monday of the month as follows:

September 12 th	November 7 th
January 9 th	March 5 th
	May 7 th

Come join us at 7:00 pm, HS, Principal's Conference Room

Volunteers Needed



There are many ways you can be active in the BH-BL High School PTSA. A pink volunteer sign up sheet is included in this newsletter. Please take a moment to look it over and help in the areas that interest you.

Volunteering is a very rewarding experience and gets you involved in your child's school and activities.

Please return the enclosed pink sheet at Back-to-School night on Thursday, September 22nd to the PTSA membership table or drop it off at the main office PTSA mailbox. Thank you.

From the Picture Committee



School yearbook pictures for grades 9-11 will be taken by

Lifetouch on **October 18th and 19th**. This is on a Tuesday and a Wednesday. Your child will have an opportunity to have their picture taken for yearbook, school ID and purchase of a photo package. Photo package order forms will be sent home with students a few days beforehand.

Retakes will be in November.

Questions? - Contact Donna Shorkey at 885-0919 or ddshork88 at msn.com.



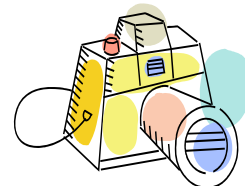
Want to learn more about school closings and news?

If you would like to receive an automatic email and/or an automatic cell phone text message when school is closed or delayed, please sign up for our "**School News Notifier**" service at <https://snn.neric.org/bhbl/>.

The School News Notifier is an **opt-in** service that users control. Closing/delay announcements on SNN and on the district website may have more details than what appears on local TV stations where space is very limited. You can get more information on the school's website at <http://bhbl.org/>.

Senior Portraits

Wednesday, September 21st, 8:00-3:00



Lauren Studios, the official school photographer for senior portraits, will have a photographer at the high school September 21st all day to take senior portraits for senior who has not has his/her picture taken yet.

An informational letter from the yearbook staff will be mailed home to parents of all seniors during the third week of September. This letter will contain all of the information needed to submit senior portraits, baby pictures, parent messages and advertisements for the yearbook.

James. E Hadcock
BH-BL HS, x3208, vm x 3404
jhadcock at bhbl.org

Odyssey of the Mind



Odyssey of the Mind is a program where groups of 5-7 students work together to solve a long term technical, artistic or performance oriented problem. They work on this problem over a period of 4-5 months. Team solutions for the team selected problem are presented at a competition as an 8 minute skit, and are performed in front of peers and judges.

Each team must work within a budget, design and build their own set, write their own script, design/create their own costumes, and perform. The second aspect of the competition is the spontaneous problem. An unknown spontaneous problem is given to the team and they must finish the problem in a 3- 8 minute timeframe. Teams generally practice a few spontaneous style problems at each team meeting.

Odyssey of the Mind is about thinking creatively and outside of the box, working together as a team, having fun, and being humorous. Teams compete against other regional school districts and should they win they will advance to state competition and perhaps world competition. The regional competition date is expected to be a Saturday at the end of February or in early March at the Shenendehowa Campus. Each team will determine their own schedule and location for meetings. Ideally each team can find a willing adult to coach the team. The coach's responsibility is to keep the team on track and ask the team relevant questions to help the team develop creative solutions. No outside assistance is allowed from any person not on the team.

Any student or parent interested in learning more about Odyssey of the Mind and/or forming a team for the 2012 regional competition, please contact **Lisa Read** at 399-9825 or [LSRR11 at aol.com](mailto:LSRR11@aol.com).

If you would care to check out Odyssey of the Mind for yourself, the website www.odysseyofthemind.com is informative.

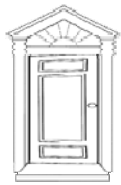
Prom & Afterglow 2012

The Jr.-Sr. Prom is planned for **Friday, May 18, 2012** with the post-prom party, Afterglow, to be held at the Bayou Café. This has become a community event that provides our young people with a substance-free environment to end their special evening. The event is open to any junior or senior, prom goer or not, and underclassmen who attended the prom.

Chaperones and baked goods will be needed.

Contact **Martha Flacke**, 399-2266 or **Lynnette Ziskin**, 384-3737 for further information.

Taste of Burnt Hills **Monday, October 17th**



The 10th annual dinner will be held Monday, October 17th from 6:00-8:30 pm in the HS cafeteria.

The dinner benefits the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Education Foundation.

Admission is \$25 per person. Tickets are available at Mail 'n More or by calling 399-9050.



Save these dates for the following fundraising events:

September 17, 2011
Outdoor Movie Night

January 28, 2012
Fundraising event at Key Hall Proctors, 7:30 pm

June 2-3, 2012
Be Strong Stroll

www.shellstrongfoundation.org

From High School Principal Maryellen Symer

Continued from page 1

Student use of cell phones in the instructional environment (classes, physical education, learning labs, or library) will result in the phone being taken from a student and turned into the main office. The policy regarding electronic devices can be found in the handbook.

Parents transporting children to school are reminded to enter and exit the school via the Lake Hill Road entrance and to drop their child off behind the high school at the gym entrance. Your support and cooperation is critical in helping us enforce these guidelines.

As a building, we will continue to focus on classroom strategies that will increase student achievement and provide students with learning opportunities that will assist them in developing 21st century skills. We will also continue to strive to increase our diploma rates and create connections for all students.

The High School Planning Council goals for the year:

1. Create a building-level committee to review Dignity for All legislation and make necessary recommendations.
2. Continue to support the building's use of instructional technology and the use of PowerSchool's Parent Portal.
3. Support health and wellness issues and activities for faculty and students at the high school.
4. Review and examine academic climate issues throughout the year. Exam schedules for
 - January and June
 - Homeroom
5. Create a committee to identify interventions and establish procedures to follow in order to implement requirements of RTI.
6. Support every department in implementing learning opportunities that will assist students in developing 21st century skills.

The following committees have been created to examine issues relevant to our school and make recommendations to assist us in achieving our goals: Safety and Security; Technology/PowerSchool; Health and Wellness; Academic Climate; Anti-Bullying; and Response to Intervention. The School Planning Council parent representative is Laurie Kruppenbacher.

The beginning of each year is the beginning of new opportunities for student learning and involvement. I appreciate your support and welcome your involvement in your child's education. I look forward to working with you to make your child's high school experience academically and socially rewarding.

Maryellen Symer, BH-BL High School Principal
399-9141 x 3303

Help your Child Succeed: Join the PTSA!

Please join the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) to benefit your child and help our school. The PTSA works closely with teachers and administrators, as well as school district staff. As a PTSA member, you'll be demonstrating to your child the importance that you place on education. Every person who joins the PTSA automatically becomes a member of both the state and national PTA.

The number one priority for parents is their children's well-being. More than 30 years worth of research has proven that children do better when their parents are involved at home and at school: grades and test scores climb, self-esteem grows, and schools improve. The PTSA helps parents, students, school staff, and communities work together to share ideas about programs and activities that benefit children. Our PTSA provides information and resources that strengthen the connections between children, parents, schools, and the community.

Your support will also help us continue our worthwhile programs such as Prom After-Glow, Arts & Enrichment, Reflections, The Follies, Odyssey of the Mind, and Staff Recognition. The PTSA cooperates with other state and national organizations concerned with family and child-oriented programs.

Membership dues are \$5 per adult and \$4 per student. Individual members may belong to one or more local units and pay dues in each. We invite students, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, teachers and other school staff, close neighbors and friends to become active PTSA members.

Enclosed with this PTSA Newsletter is a white envelope to be used for the PTSA membership dues. You may send cash or check made payable to "BH-BL High School PTSA". Please include the name(s) of each individual joining the PTSA as well as the homeroom number of your child on the envelope.

Please return the envelope with your dues at Back-to-School Night on Thursday, September 22nd, at 7 pm. Student/parent volunteers will be at the PTSA membership table in front of the library to collect the envelopes or they may be given to a homeroom teacher. Depending on the time, you will receive a membership card that night or one will be sent home with your child through his or her homeroom teacher.

If you are unable to join at Back-to-School Night, you can still submit your dues by having your child give the completed envelope to his or her homeroom teacher or they can have it placed in the PTSA mailbox at the main office. If you have any questions, please contact **Barb Becker at 399-3775 or kevsmom1 at hotmail.com.**

For more information on the PTA, please visit the PTA national website at www.pta.org or the New York State site at www.nyspta.org. It's easy and important that you join!

***** Please return this form in the attached envelope with your PTSA membership dues *****
Checks payable to: BH-BL HS PTSA

Name of PTSA **Adult Members** (Parent/Guardian/Grandparent) **Dues: \$5/adult**

1. _____

2. _____

Name of PTSA **Student Members** **Dues: \$4/student**

1. _____

2. _____

Student's Homeroom Teacher _____ Homeroom # _____

Corporate Programs that Benefit our High School

If you have previously signed up for one of these programs at another school (elementary or middle school) and your child(ren) is no longer there, PLEASE take the time to go on-line and change the destination of your shopping dollars to the High School.

Target's "Take Charge of Education" program:

Please consider applying for a Target Credit Card or the Target Visa Credit Card. Up to 1% of your total purchases will be donated to our school. The BH-BL High School must be designated as the selected school when you sign up. Here's how to sign up:

Enroll on-line: www.targettakechargeofeducation.com OR Call 1-800-316-6142 OR Enroll at an in-store kiosk

THANK YOU to parents and faculty that are already enrolled – the high school regularly receives a check from the Target Corp.

Price Chopper's "Tools for Schools" program:

Sign up for an AdvantEdge card and designate BH-BL High School. Every dollar spent at Price Chopper will earn our school points toward new equipment. Look for Double Point tags in the Price Chopper stores to earn even more points. Your registration is carried forward year-to-year, but if your child is now at the high school, you must change your school choice on the registration form. This can be done at your local Price Chopper or on-line at www.pricechopper/toolsforschools.com. The BH-BL High School's registration code is 15716. THANK YOU to everyone who has an AdvantEdge card registered with BH-BL High School.

Hannaford Helps Schools

Purchase participating products. Earn money for your school. It's that simple!

From September 4th to December 3rd, purchase specially marked products from Hannaford that will earn "school dollars". Either deposit the "school dollars" into the collection tower at a local Hannaford (designated BH-BL High School) or send them in to school with your child.

There is no limit to the school dollars we can earn for our school:

Purchase 4 participating products, earn 3 school dollars, 8 products earns 6, 12 products earns 9 school dollars, etc.

Since its inception 11 years ago, the Hannaford Helps Schools program has raised over \$6.75 million for nearly 2,700 schools.

Every store will grant an additional \$1,000 to the school in their area that earns the most money.

BH-BL High School PTSA
88 Lake Hill Road
Burnt Hills, NY 12027

Or Current Occupant:

PTSA Membership information enclosed, sign-up at Back-to-School Night – Thursday, September 22nd.