

Bell-Graham E-Blast: Week of 8/28/17



From the Principal's Desk

Hello Bell-Graham Families,

We are off to a great start this school year, and it has been wonderful to begin to get to know your children and see their excitement and joy to learn each day. Thank you for coming to our Curriculum Nights this past Monday and Tuesday. We as a Bell-Graham team value building strong links between home and school. Don't hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

I want to thank all the parents and students who have made me feel so welcomed over the past few weeks. I am extremely impressed how supportive this community is towards our school and I am very honored to serve with this amazing team of educators. Let the learning begin!

Less Emails! We have combined the weekly emails from the school and the PTO into one weekly email. You should expect to receive this email, called the "Bell-Graham E-Blast" each Wednesday. Don't worry they will not all be this long.

Sincerely,
Mr. Jarot

"Honey, when is that thing at school happening?" If you have ever heard those words spoken in your house, we have a helpful tool to keep you informed about all the important events happening at Bell-Graham. You can link our school website calendar to your iPhone calendar and all of the events will show up embedded into your calendar.

Follow these steps:

- From your iPhone (Android User will need to install an app that links iCal to Android Calendars)
- Go to the [Bell-Graham Website Calendar](#)
- Click on the small orange iCal icon in the bottom left corner of the screen.
- You will be asked, Subscribe to the calendar, "Bell-Graham Calendar"?

- Click Subscribe and you are done!
- Check out the [video on facebook](#) where Mr. Jarot explains to BeeGee how to link calendars.

From the Office:

- If your child is absent for any reason, please notify the office prior to the start of the school day at 331-228-2100. There is voicemail 24 hours a day so you can leave a message anytime.
- If you are planning on taking your child out of school other than for illness or a family funeral, you need to fill out a pre-arranged absence form. They are located on the Bell-Graham webpage [here](#)
- Kindergarten families...remember tuition is due on the 15th of every month August-April.
- Families, if you have not completed registration and paid fees, please do so immediately by clicking [here](#).
- Depositing money on a lunch account...[click here](#).



Bell-Graham Bobcats are good neighbors: Our student council is beginning to meet again. They have already recognized that we can play a part to support our “neighbors” in the Houston area as they recover from Hurricane Harvey. We are looking forward to what our students decide is

the best way for us to give back and help those in need. Stay tuned for information from our Bell-Graham Student Council on how we as a school community can work together to help out.

Drive and Walk Safely Please: If you drop off, or pick up your student from school, please remember to drive with extreme caution as you enter our campus and pull through the drop off zone in front of the school. Please stay off your cell phone so that you can pay full attention to the traffic. If you need to get out of your car to help your child exit the vehicle, please pull into a parking spot so the flow of cars can continue. When walking to the front entrance, remember to only cross the car lanes using the pedestrian cross walk. If your child walks to school, please remind them to always stay on the sidewalks. We do not want children walking through the parking lot or cutting across fields along.

Dates to Remember

August 31, 2017	New Parent Coffee - 8:45-9:45 AM
September 1, 2017	No School - Teacher Institute Day

September 4, 2017	No School - Labor Day
September 11, 2017	School Picture Day
September 16, 2017	Spirit Wear Orders Due
September 19, 2017	Buona Beef Fundraiser
September 21, 2017	PTO Meeting @ 1:30 Teacher's Lounge
September 25-29, 2017	Scholastic Book Fair
September 28, 2017	Math Night at Bell-Graham
September 30, 2017	Box Tops Due

From the PTO

PTO Welcome Back Picnic: Thank you to Brenda Szerlong for organizing our Bell-Graham Welcome Back Picnic this year. It was a fun evening and a great way to kick off the year!

Orchestra Parents: Please check out the new [orchestra website!](#)



New Parent Coffee

Whether you are new to the area or have a Kindergarten student for the first time at Bell-Graham, we would like to invite all new Bell-Graham families to the New Family Welcome Coffee this Thursday, August 31, 2017 from 8:45 AM to 9:45 AM. This short informative session will be presented by our principal, Mr. Jarot, and members of the PTO Board. We hope to provide you more information on different events held throughout the year, resources you'll need, and give you the tools for a great year at Bell-Graham! We will also serve some light morning snacks and refreshments to enjoy while you have all your questions answered and meet other new families to Bell-Graham. Please meet at the school in the Teacher's Lounge. To RSVP check out the evite [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact the New Family Welcome Committee: Chair, Patty Hoppenstedt at pmhoppenstedt@comcast.net or 331-262-7313.



Box Tops: Welcome back Bell-Graham families! I am Sarah Egan, your Box Top coordinator. Each classroom throughout the school has a pink Box Top box where students can deposit their cut tops. Every month the committee collects, sorts, and determines which class has won the monthly contest. The winning class gets a trophy and a visit from BeeGee! Please cut those Box Tops off of the MANY participating items, bag them and send them into your child's class. Once they are all sorted, we send them into Box Tops for Education and earn \$.10 for each top. Thank you for helping us raise money for our school by participating in our monthly collection contests!

Attached list of participating Box Tops items:

<http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/participating-products>

Picture Day

School Picture Day: Color Portraits will be here on Monday, September 11th to take school pictures. Do not send money that day as proof sheets will be sent home three to four weeks after photos are taken with instructions on how to order your favorite photo on-line. Please contact Mrs. Priola at lori.priola@d303.org with any questions.

PTO FEES/DIRECTORY- Our PTO School Directory is now live and access to the Directory Spot app has been granted to PTO dues paying families. The PTO collects a voluntary donation from each family to help fund all that we do. If you have not paid your PTO dues yet and want to do so, you can do it [here](#). You will receive a separate email with directions on how to access the directory. Parents have the ability to update/change/edit your family contact info at any time. This can only be done on the [website](#). **PLEASE** check for accuracy for your information as soon as possible. The office provided all information allowed to be released to the PTO, so if information is missing and you want it added, please add it on the [website](#). Any questions? Contact [Heather Trask](#).

PTO INFO: Not sure what the PTO does? Join us for our first PTO meeting on Thursday, September 21st @ 1:30 in the Teacher's Lounge. We will be voting on our 2017-18 PTO Budget. We'd love to hear your opinions and get your input. Check out our [PTO flyer](#) for more info. Want to become more involved? Sign-up to serve on a PTO Committee [here](#).

VIP PARKING SPOT RAFFLE: Want a chance to win the coveted VIP parking spot for the 2017-2018 school year? Purchase a \$10 raffle ticket on [Community Pass](#) or contact [Heather Trask](#) for more information. A winner will be drawn on September 8th.

Spirit Wear: 2017 Bell-Graham Spirit Wear will be on sale Sept. 5-16, see attached [flyer](#). Please contact benedictamenezes@yahoo.com or winsorams@gmail.com with questions.

BUONA BEEF FUNDRAISER: We are excited to have our first Bell Graham fundraiser dinner at Buona Beef, Tuesday, September 19, all day. Please present the attached [flyer](#) when ordering and Buona Beef will donate 20% of your bill back to Bell-Graham. Meet up with your family and friends to help support Bell Graham!



SAVE THE DATE!

A Wild West book fair is coming soon! Scholastic book fair will be held at Bell Graham the week of September 25 th -29 th . Hours will be posted shortly. There will be before and after school sale hours as well as a midday hour and one evening with extended hours. Our Scholastic Book Fair is a reading event that brings the books kids want to read right into our school. It's a wonderful selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level. Please make plans to visit our Book Fair and be involved in shaping your child's reading habits. This is a great chance for early Christmas shopping and to spread the love of reading! Students will also have the opportunity to purchase and donate books to their classrooms! If you are unable to attend, there will be also be an online book sale – an online link will be posted soon. Cash, checks and credit cards are accepted for the book fair.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Interested in Scouting? Come visit Bell Graham Pack 801! We are a cub scout pack for boys in grades kindergarten to 5th grade. We are holding two open houses for you and your son to come experience and see what scouting is all about. Our first open house is the **Annual Bonfire on 9/8 at LeRoy Oaks**. Join us at 5:00pm for a cook out with s'mores to follow. Our second open house is our **Blast Into Scouting Sports Night on 9/14** . It will be in the Bell Graham Gym from 7 to 8:30. Make some new friends and have some fun while playing dodgeball, hockey and other activities. If you would like additional information about scouting or want to RSVP to either of these events, please contact Colleen Kissner at [727-460-7882](tel:727-460-7882) or GKcharmcity or Tom Bolster at tombolster23@gmail.com or [678-480-1260](tel:678-480-1260). Please see our [flyers](#) for additional details. [Click here](#)



Girl Scouts: If you are interested in joining Bell-Graham Girl Scouts this year, please see the attached [flyer](#). Girl Scouts is open to all girls in grades K-5 at BG. Kindergarten leaders needed! Please contact Sherry Maschmeyer at SMaschmeyer@girlscoutsni.org

ST. CHARLES STORM BASKETBALL: Early registration is open for Boys Grades 2-5 and Girls Grades 1-5 until September 1st. Visit stcstorm.com for detailed information on their bitty and in-house programs and to register.

Adventure Guides and Adventure Princess: This is a wonderful program for Dads and their children to spend quality time together and build really great life values. Every event is based on the goal of being together. This organization is managed by our local YMCA, please see [flyer](#) attached and consider joining the group.

St. Charles East Volleyball Clinic: Please register for this fun event for boys and girls from 2nd-8th grade. All East girls volleyball teams and coaches will be there to teach. See attached [flyer](#). Contact Kathryn Carr at carrluzi@sbcglobal.net, with questions. Thank you for your support.

Community Events: If you would like to know more about activities in the community, check out the district's community backpack website at <http://district.d303.org/community-backpack>

Thanks for reading all the way to the bottom! You win a free high five from the Bell-Graham Office Staff. Visit the office to redeem your prize. No expiration date.

