

Welcome to Bridge Valley!!

2017-2018



Principal – Mr. Kevin Cochran
Assistant Principal – Mrs. Stacey Pedersen

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Dear Parents,

On behalf of Bridge Valley Elementary's (BVE) Home and School Association (HSA), we would like to extend a warm welcome to BVE! We are here to help make your transition into our Trailblazer Community as smooth as possible. We have prepared a number of resource materials for you to use as reference points for all of your child(ren)'s school activities. There are many wonderful opportunities to get to know BVE, spend time with your child (ren) in his/her classroom, and meet other parent volunteers.

As your HSA, we look forward to helping you become involved and understand our goals. Our key mission is to foster a nurturing and caring environment that strives for continued parent involvement to build a better educational setting for our children. We also promote a school community where teachers and administrators can do their best work with the resources we can provide and help make school fun. We seek to create an environment where our children can do their best growing and learning. We're always eager to find more great people, like you, to help us meet this goal.

PTO Today research shows that students whose parents are involved in their education have better grades and fewer behavioral issues. Involvement at the school also makes it easier to establish connections with staff and other parents. We promise that the time you give in our school community will be worth your time.

There are no huge time commitments from volunteers. Whether you have 30 minutes or a couple of hours, your ideas, your time, and your talents are truly needed. We have positions and tasks to fit all schedules and interests. Just let us know whether a program, event, or activity interests you by contacting us at hsabve@gmail.com. We will be happy to help you find the right contact person.

Our HSA provides information and resources through email, newsletters, classroom coordinators, and our General Membership meetings. The best way to receive information, and share your talents is to attend these meetings. Won't you join us? We invite you to mark your calendars for this year's meeting dates and times:



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETINGS
2017-18

9/14 General Membership 9:30 am

11/9 General Membership 7:00 pm

1/18 General Membership 9:30 am

3/15 General Membership 9:30 am

6/7 General Membership 9:30 am

We need your ideas and energy! Becoming active is really easy - and it really makes a difference! We look forward to a successful year. Feel free to call or e-mail if you have any questions. Together, we can make a difference at our school!

Welcome and warmest regards,
Your HSA Board

Karen Smith - Co-president
Kim Hillman - Co-president
Lisa Wurster - Vice President/Assist. Treasurer
Danielle Preston - Treasurer
Abbe Kerskey - Secretary
Mr. Cochran - Principal
Mrs. Stacey Pedersen - Assistant Principal
Mary Kate Tate - Staff Representative

BRIDGE VALLEY YEAR AT A GLANCE

While not an exhaustive list of what goes on throughout the year at Bridge Valley, these are events that our school community has come to expect and enjoy! Many of these also offer volunteer opportunities for parents, grandparents, and families.

September

- Back to School Night – each grade level meeting is held during its own time on a specific night

October

- Fall Fest
- Celebrate Education Activities
- Red Ribbon Week
- Halloween Parade and Parties

November

- Scholastic Book Fair
- Thanksgiving Feast (K families)
- Conferences

December

- Holiday Boutique
- Winter Parties
- Polar Express (1st grade only)
- Holiday Concert
- Holiday Sing

January

- Blazer Academy (1 – 6th grade)
- Reading Olympics (5th and 6th grades)

February

- Art Goes to School (AGTS)
- 100 Day Celebration
- Box Top\$ Deadline

March

- Just Running (2nd – 6th grade)
- Science Alive
- PSSA (5th grade – writing)
- Art Mobile
- Trailblazing the Arts (2nd and 3rd grades)

April

- Garden Buddies (1 – 6th grade)
- PSSA (3 – 6th grade – Reading and Math)
- PSSA (4th grade – Science)
- Portfolio Conferences

May

- Scholastic Bookfair/Buy One Get One
- Teacher Appreciation Day
- Volunteer Appreciation
- Field Day
- Spring Concert
- Garden Buddies (K only)

June

- Garden Buddy Harvest and Salad Parties
- HSA Officer Elections
- End of Year Parties (K – 5th grade)
- 6th Grade Promotion
- Rumpus in the Rainforest Play (1st grade only)
- Move Up Day (K – 5th grade)
- 6th Grade Graduation Breakfast

BRIDGE VALLEY ACRONYMS

Here at BVE, we have a few acronyms that are frequently used. Here is what we mean when we say

AGTS – Art Goes to School

BTSN – Back to School Night (held in September by grade level)

BVE – Bridge Valley Elementary

BVE Day – held monthly, usually the last day of the month

CC – Classroom Coordinator (Homerom parent)

CMR – Community Meeting Room (conference room across from BV Library)

EOY – End of Year

HSA – Home and School Association

LGI – Large Group Instruction (the room behind the main center stairs)

PSSA – Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (annual standardized test administered to grades 3 thru 6 in March and April)

TC - Team Coordinator (1 – 2 per grade; liaison with CCs)

SUG – Sign Up Genius

BRIDGE VALLEY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

BVE welcomes everyone who would like to volunteer and enrich the learning experience of our children. While there are too many volunteer opportunities to list individually, the BV HSA can help you find a way to contribute your time and talents.

Opportunities may pertain to events that are for all students or specific to your child's classroom. Opportunities may be ongoing (repeating weekly, monthly) as well as one time opportunities. There are even opportunities to assist in the evening and weekend, should work and family schedules prevent volunteering during the school day.

Please look in the Bridge Valley Tribune that comes out at the end of the month for volunteer's Sign Up Genius. You can also find the Sign Up Genius links on our website.

Here are just a few activities and events for which we'll be seeking volunteers:

School wide:

- Fall Fest
- Blazer Academy
- Blazer Blessings
- Holiday Boutique
- KidStuff Books
- Garden Buddies
- Science Alive
- Just Running
- Book Fairs (fall and spring)
- Field Day
- Year Book
- Multi-cultural Day/ United Nation's Day

Classroom specific:

- Thursday Folders
- In-Class Centers
- Science Alive Lab Volunteers
- Party Donors
- Party Attendees/Helpers
- Take-Home prep work requested by teacher
- Book Fairs – assist class with shopping (fall and spring)
- Classroom Coordinator (class parent)
- Field Trip Chaperones (lottery may be utilized if there is an overabundance of volunteers)
- Garden Buddies

BRIDGE VALLEY SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES!!

While many families support BVE through their countless volunteer hours, many also enjoy supporting the school while at the same time taking care of their families. BVE participates in one annual fundraising campaign but also offers many opportunities to support the school through passive fundraisers, efforts that take very little time and offer repeated financial support for the school.

ACTIVE SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES:

Membership Drive (September)

Families are invited to offer an annual donation. Thanks to the generosity of our families, BVE HSA has been able to defray a portion of class field trip costs, sponsor Science Alive, Fall Festival, and Holiday Boutique. We even have been able to purchase items for our teachers to enhance their classroom materials.

KidStuff Books (September/October)

KidStuff Coupon Books are sent home in September and families are invited to review the many coupons for area restaurants, grocery stores, retail stores and family activities. Families may choose to purchase the \$25 book or return it at no cost. For each book purchased, BVE will earn \$12.50. Coupons are good for up to 15 months.

PASSIVE SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES:

BOX TOP\$ FOR EDUCATION

Please collect Box Top\$ for Education! This is a huge potential for free money for our school. Ask your family and neighbors to save too! Either attach to a Box Top\$ collection sheet, or place in a plastic bag, and drop them in the Box Top\$ collection box in the lobby.

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

GIANT A+ REWARDS

Register your Giants Rewards card so that Bridge Valley can receive money when you shop. From Oct to March, 5% of your purchase will be donated to Bridge Valley H&S every time you provide your rewards card. You can fill out a registration form and send it back, or stop by the registration table during Back to School Night.

AMAZON SMILES

You can also shop Smile.Amazon.com from your computer and have it delivered directly to Bridge Valley H&S. Amazon Smile allows users to pick a charity and they donate .5% of every purchase to it. Simply go to smile.amazon.com. You can search for Bridge Valley H&S using the search bar below the preset charities. After selecting Bridge Valley H&S you will receive a notification from Amazon.

Bridge Valley's direct shopping link is <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/11-3722272>

RECYCLE!

Bridge Valley Elementary H&S will turn your trash to treasure when you donate your used cell phones and toner cartridges! It's good for you - clears out that clutter! Good for the environment - saves landfill space! And great for us - helps fund Bridge Valley projects and programs!

Drop off your collection to Bridge Valley Elementary Lobby from 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to set up a collection spot at your business or group's meeting place, call Passive Fundraising Chairperson Gabby at [267-221-8623](tel:267-221-8623) or email gabbylockwood@gmail.com

If bringing your recycling donation to Bridge Valley Elementary is too much, become a business supporter and send your cell phones and toner cartridges directly to Funding Factory. It's easy to sign up and all funds raised from your shipments will be sent to Bridge Valley Elementary H&S. All you need to do is:

Go to:

http://www.fundingfactory.com/register/register_supporter.aspx?beneficiary_id=27114

Fill out all your business information.

Make sure to type 354471 in the Beneficiary ID field so that your donation is directed to Bridge Valley H&S.

Funding Factory will send you labels and instructions on how to make shipments.