



Friday, September 2, 2022

Bret Harte Community,

The school year has started and we are ready to get moving! All important dates and meeting info are listed below, and attached is a copy of the PTA calendar through the end of 2022. This will also be sent home with students next week. I will send out the 2023 calendar for January - May once it is completed in a month or two.

### **Thank You**

I am extremely grateful for all the work that has gone in over the summer to get ready for this new school year!

- For those that helped install our new Franklin Blvd fence signage and for those that created the new 9th Ave banners; these look incredible and not only beautify our school but also bring greater visibility and awareness for the community.
- For everyone who has signed up to join PTA so far. This has really helped us get started on the right track and meet our minimum required membership levels.
- For all of the school teachers and staff who worked very hard to get ready for the beginning of the school year
- For our new families and community members, thank you for signing up for our email list so we can keep everyone informed of what is happening at school and where we need help. If you have any questions or want more information, please come to our PTA meetings or email [BretHarteBearsPTA@gmail.com](mailto:BretHarteBearsPTA@gmail.com)

### **Upcoming meetings and events - September & October**

Wed 9/7 -- 6:00pm - 6:45pm :: Garden Committee meeting (has been rescheduled from 9/14)

Mon 9/12 -- 8:30am - 9:30am :: [School Event] Grandparents Tea Party

Mon 9/12 -- 6:00pm - 7:30pm :: PTA Meeting

Wed 9/14 -- 5:00pm - 5:30pm :: PTA snacks, meet & greet, membership signup before Back To School Night

Wed 9/14 -- 5:30pm - 6:30pm :: [School Event] Back To School Night

Thu 9/15 -- 6:00pm - 6:45pm :: Committee Meeting - Events & Fundraisers

Sat 9/24 -- 10:00am - 12:00pm :: Garden Work Day

Sat 10/1 -- 9:00am :: Walk 4 Literacy Event

Fri 10/7 -- 11:00am - 1:00pm :: Chalk-It-Up at lunch

Mon 10/10 -- 6:00pm - 7:30pm :: PTA Meeting

Wed 10/12 -- 6:00pm - 6:45pm :: Garden Committee meeting

Sat 10/22 -- 10:00am - 12:00pm :: Garden Work Day

Mon 10/24 to Fri 10/28 :: [School Event] Red Ribbon Week / Spirit Week

Thu 10/27 -- 5:00pm - 7:00pm :: [School Event] Harvest Festival

All of these are listed on the attached calendar. Please add them to your calendars and set reminders for any meetings or events you want to attend.

### **Our Meetings**

There is a lot happening this year and we will need time to plan and organize our efforts. PTA Meetings will be used to handle our business as well as for discussion and planning for upcoming events. There is also time in our PTA Meetings for any open discussions or concerns that are raised. Committee meetings are scheduled to

organize specific details and volunteering efforts for upcoming events and fundraisers. Our two committees for Events and Fundraisers will be combining the meetings this year, and meetings may be canceled if they are not needed / if all details are planned and ready for upcoming activities. Our Garden Committee will continue to meet monthly to prepare for upcoming Garden Work Days and to make future plans for the school garden and its expansion.

- PTA Meetings

Our PTA meetings will be in-person this year, with an optional Zoom video conferencing for anyone that is not able to attend in-person. We will try this for September and October to determine if it is something that we want to keep doing. The meetings are scheduled 6pm to 7:30pm but are usually shorter and we are aiming to have them be an hour or less. If there is enough interest in moving our meeting dates/times, that can be arranged if needed for a majority of members.

- Committee Meetings

Our committee meetings will be in-person this year. Committee meetings are scheduled 6pm to 6:45pm, and may be shorter depending on needs, or even cancelled if not needed.

- Online Video Conferencing

To join any of our PTA meetings or Committee meetings via video conferencing use <https://www.zoom.us/join> and enter meeting number 874 574 3320 with passcode 963 258

Please save this info if you plan to join remotely, this will be the same meeting number and passcode for all meetings.

### **Help With Events**

We will need lots of help with the events and programs this year. Once the committees have the details organized, an online sign-up system will be used for anyone to volunteer to help. For most events, anyone can sign up to volunteer. There may be some events that require the volunteer paperwork & fingerprinting process to be completed with the school district. That will be specifically mentioned as a requirement if it is needed, otherwise anyone can help with most of our events and volunteer opportunities.

### **Garden Work Days**

Our Garden Work Days are a great way to help out at school. Each month, there will be a work day for 2 hours on a Saturday. Anyone is welcome to come help, including kids, friends, family, and neighbors. Our first Work Day is on Saturday 9/24 starting at 10:00am. Please get involved and join us in the garden!

### **Membership Drive**

Please join PTA - we are starting a membership challenge! Two classes will win a pizza party in October for having the most number of PTA members - one for the highest total number of members and one for the highest percentage of members by classroom size. Remember, anyone can become a PTA member so get all your friends, family, and neighbors to join PTA and win a class party! Flyers will be sent home next week with membership information.

### **Classroom Parent**

We would love to get a parent representative in every classroom. This will help with communicating between teachers, parents, and PTA. If you are willing to be a parent representative for your child's classroom, please let us know.

### **Reserved Parking Space**

The reserved parking space is prepared in the front of the school. To win this space, come to our PTA meeting to be entered into a drawing. You can write your name on a ticket and drop it in the box. Each month a new winner will be chosen. This year, the tickets will accumulate through the school year so the more you show up, the greater your chances of winning.

### **Walk 4 Literacy**

This is not a school event nor a PTA event - Walk 4 Literacy is a non-profit organization that supports reading literacy and has supported our school and our PTA in the past. They are running their annual fundraiser on Saturday October 1st starting at 9:00am at McClatchy Park. This neighborhood walk will take participants on a route that goes directly in front of Bret Harte. This is a great opportunity to support an organization that has helped us, as well as getting word out about our wonderful school. Please consider signing up to join the walk. We will also be organizing some volunteer opportunities to have people present at the school along the route to share information about our school.

**We can get a discounted group rate to sign up for the walk.** Time is running out. I have not received any interest for signups from anyone yet, but there is still time. If you want to participate in the walk with our group rate of \$25/person, please email PTA to sign up: [BretHarteBearsPTA@gmail.com](mailto:BretHarteBearsPTA@gmail.com) We will need a minimum of 10 people to sign in order to qualify for the discounted rate.

For more information about Walk 4 Literacy please see their website: <https://walk4literacy.org>

### **Shop with Amazon - donate to PTA**

If you shop online with Amazon, please consider choosing your Amazon Smile charity as our PTA. You can go here to select our PTA: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/90-1185048>

After that, any time you shop on Amazon using the <https://smile.amazon.com> website (or using the mobile app) a very small portion of the proceeds will be donated to our PTA quarterly. It is not much, but every bit helps!

Have a wonderful extended weekend and enjoy your Labor Day!

Adam Gothard

President, Bret Harte Bears PTA