

Bret Harte PTA

May Newsletter

Bret Harte Families and Friends,

There are lots of upcoming events and activities, and plenty of ways you can help out at Bret Harte. If you would like to help you can contact the PTA at BretHarteBearsPTA@gmail.com or stop by the school office to speak with the staff about ways to help.

As a reminder, students in 3rd-6th grades will be doing state testing on various days over the next two weeks. While these tests do not affect student grades, they are important to show how students are learning and meeting educational standards. These help our state, school district, and administrators make choices about Bret Harte Elementary and educational standards. Make sure you take some time to help your student manage any stress or anxiety during these days, especially as they work through longer periods of testing, sitting still, remaining quiet, and mentally focussing on their efforts. Please encourage your student to get plenty of sleep and eat a healthy breakfast and lunch to make it through the day!

Here are all the happenings and upcoming events:

Teacher Appreciation Week

Next week, May 8-12, is Teacher Appreciation Week! Be sure to show your appreciation to **all** of our teachers, aids, staff, and administrators for the incredible work they have been doing all year long. Some ideas are: thank you cards, artwork from your student, goodie bags, a list of reasons they are appreciated, flowers, or anything else you want to do to show your support. The PTA will be showing our gratitude for all teachers and staff by providing cookies & coffee Monday afternoon along with breakfast bagels on Wednesday morning.

100-year Anniversary Picnic

In celebration of our school's 100-year anniversary in Curtis Park, there will be a picnic event on May 12th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Pack a meal for your family and enjoy music, student performances, bounce houses, guest speakers, and face painting. Free desserts and drinks will be provided by the PTA. Limited food options (hotdogs and nachos) will be available for purchase as well. You can purchase a Bret Harte Bears picnic blanket at the welcome table on sale for \$15 (normally \$20), or bring your own blanket from home.

Volunteers are needed to help during the event. Volunteers who sign up online by Monday May 8 will get a free Bret Harte Bears picnic blanket, so be sure to sign-up online:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805044EA5AD2FA6FA7-bret1>

Yearbook

The yearbook has been finalized and is being sent to print. The preview of the yearbook looks wonderful with lots of fun student photos, artwork, and quotes from students!

Thank you to everyone who has already ordered. We will have around 20 additional copies available for sale if anyone missed the order deadline. These can be purchased from the PTA for \$25 with cash, check, or credit card. Stop by the PTA table at the 100-year anniversary picnic to place an order.

Garden

The garden committee will be having our next planning meeting on Wed May 10th at 6pm in the Parent Room at Bret Harte. We will be planning for the upcoming work days, butterfly garden, centennial tree planting, and potato harvest / french fry party.

The next Garden Work Day will be Saturday May 20th from 9am to 11am - we are starting earlier to beat some of the heat.

Open House

The school is holding an Open House event on Tuesday May 23rd from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. This is an opportunity to visit your student's classroom, see what they have been learning this year, and talk with your teacher.

Bike Rodeo

The school is organizing its first annual Bike Rodeo event on Friday May 26th from 8:30am to 10:00am. Students may bring a working bicycle or scooter to the event, along with a helmet. You will not be allowed to participate without a helmet! Parents are welcome to join in the fun too. All bikes and scooters must check-in by 7:45am on the Franklin Blvd entrance near the Student Support Center, and must be picked up at the end of the event and/or day (no overnight storage of bikes or scooters). Free bike helmets will be available at the PTA table, as supplies last.

Parent Picnic

The school is hosting another family picnic lunch at Bret Harte on Friday June 2nd. This will take place during normal student lunch time and families are encouraged to bring a picnic to enjoy with your student.

Last but certainly not least, I want to express my gratitude for everyone that has been helping. There are lots of fun events happening as we finish this school year and it takes a lot of hard work to pull these off. I am extremely grateful for everyone that has been helping! A massive THANK YOU goes out to everyone helping with the yearbook and the 100-year anniversary celebration. These have been huge projects with lots of work, meetings, planning, and volunteer efforts all year long. I can't express how much work these have been and how grateful I am for everyone that has been helping all year. I also want to thank our PTA members that helped install the fence art along Franklin Blvd; it looks great and I can't wait to also see what we can do for the 7th Ave fenceline. Thank you to our PTA garden committee members that helped with both of our garden tours and all the work that went into creating our wonderful art and photo boards that were on display. These will also be on display for the 100-year celebration and I encourage everyone to check them out and see some of the ways our students use the garden. Thank you also to the PTA for renewing the 9th Ave banners, installing new basketball hoop nets, and supplying a new ball cart for the school!

Thank you,
Adam Gothard
President, Bret Harte PTA