

Bret Harte Families and Friends,

There are so many great things happening at school - the first month of school has flown by! We can use some help with the upcoming activities. Everything that needs volunteer helpers are listed below with a **Green** heading so pay extra attention to those items and help if you can.

Appreciation:

First, let me thank everyone who has been helping so far; we have already accomplished so much in this first month.

- Thank you to everyone who has come to meetings and has helped with planning for the Fall Festival, it's going to be a fun event!
- Thank you to everyone who cleaned up and organized the parent room and got it ready for in-person meetings.
- Thank you to everyone who helped at our September garden work day - the beds are almost ready for planting and students will be using the garden in the next week or two.
- Thank you to Lindsey and Lauren who created our new PTA bulletin board. This will be updated regularly with important information, upcoming events, and information about our garden.
- Thank you to everyone who has returned their PTA form and been counted for the classroom pizza parties - we have just over 50 members this year which is a big improvement from the 26 last year and the 16 the year before. It is wonderful to see our PTA grow and for more people to get involved at Bret Harte.
- Thank you to everyone who participated in the Walk 4 Literacy event and helped spread the good news of Bret Harte to our larger community.

Here is everything that we need helpers with:

No long-term or ongoing commitment is required. You can sign up to help for as little as an hour and be done, or you can sign up for longer shifts or a regular schedule. Whatever you are able to sign up for, we are grateful for the help!

If you're not available, we understand; consider helping in other ways by donating items that are needed, or lending some folding tables or other equipment that we need. There are lots of ways to help: volunteering, donating, making fliers, lending supplies, and more.

Chalk It Up at Lunch

The PTA Events Committee is running a lunchtime outdoor chalk art event this Friday, October 7th. A few volunteers are needed to help with this. You can email Lauren to let her know you want to help:

laurengothard@gmail.com

Garden Planting

If anyone has a rototiller that we can use, please reply to this email and I can will handle the transportation (pickup and dropoff) so you don't need to do anything else. We would like to till the soil and fertilizer before the students do planting next week.

Classes will be going out to the school garden on Oct 12th and 14th to do their planting. If you would like to help with this you can sign up here: [Garden Planting Volunteers](#)

Field Trip Fundraiser Opportunity

The local neighborhood association (SCNA) is holding a fundraiser event at the Sierra 2 Center. They need volunteers to help with their event and they are offering a donation to our school for any parents who volunteer. You can sign up to volunteer here: <https://signup.com/go/yUevouT> and when entering your name add "(BH)" to mark that you are from Bret Harte. There are various shifts available from 10am to 9pm.

The event, called "Gather At The Long Table", is on October 16th and more information can be found here: <https://sierra2.org/event/gather/>

Garden Work Day

Our next work day is on Oct 22nd 10am - 12pm. Thank you to everyone that helped last month to get the beds ready for students to do planting. There is more work to do to maintain the garden and get it ready for our big projects this year.

Fall Festival

Fall Festival is returning! It has been a few years since the Fall Festival was held due to Covid and distance learning, so we are extremely excited this is back! This will be a fun family event with music, carnival games and prizes, food, candy, trunk-or-treating, face painting, a silent auction, and more! There is no entrance cost, but children must be accompanied by an adult. There will be free games and activities in addition to those that require tickets. Tickets will be sold at the entrance for \$0.50 each and a price list will be posted for ticket requirements of each activity.

This is a big event and there is a lot we need help with to make this happen. Don't feel intimidated, you can volunteer for as little as a 30-minute time slot while you are already at the event. If you aren't able to sign up for a time slot you can still help by donating items, food, candy, prizes, and equipment so please look at all the signup slots that are listed and help where you can.

Use this link to sign up to lend equipment or donate supplies: [Fall Festival - Donations and Equipment](#)

Use this link to sign up as a volunteer for the event: [Fall Festival - Volunteers](#)

Reopen the School Library

One of our PTA goals for this year is to reopen the school library for students to use. Since the school does not have a budget for a librarian, we need volunteers to help. You can volunteer as little as an hour one time, or for several hours, or you can sign up for a recurring weekly/monthly schedule. It's entirely up to you and any help we can get is appreciated. Even if we reopen the library for 2-3 times the whole year, let's start there and then increase our goal the following year. [Please click here to fill out the interest form](#) if you are willing to volunteer for the library. Once we have some feedback, we can pick a schedule

Little Free Library Installation

For some of us who have been at Bret Harte for several years, you may recall a project that was started outside of PTA a few years ago to raise funds and install a Little Free Library at Bret Harte. This project is nearly complete and almost ready for installation. I need 2-3 volunteers to help me with the installation process by hand-digging the post holes. Please email me if you are willing to assist and we will finalize a

schedule with anyone who has responded, I will work with your schedule and availability. Contact: adam.gothard@gmail.com

All of our other updates and new things coming soon

PTA Forms and Classroom Pizza Party

Congratulations to Mr. Fong's class for having the most PTA engagement by returning their contact forms. Mrs. Bunney's class and Mrs. Lim's class tied for second place. All three of these classes have won a pizza party!

I'm grateful to everyone who has returned their contact forms and joined our email list. It is wonderful to see new people getting involved and helping out and it's wonderful to see many new faces at our meetings. Just being on the email list is a huge help as well; we can have a bigger pool of volunteers available when we do big events like our Fall Festival at the end of the month, and we will need lots of help with the 100-Year Anniversary in May. Just a reminder - you do not have to be a member of the PTA to help out with donating items and supplies for events, or signing up to volunteer for our events. Members do get some privileges and anyone can join PTA any time throughout the year to enjoy these benefits:

- Voting on all actions taken by the PTA
- Voting for our elected board officers in April
- Monthly drawing for the reserved parking space
- Discounts on some events - there will be a discount available for games and food at the Fall Festival for PTA members

Reserved Parking Space

Come to the PTA Association Meetings to have your name entered into the drawing for the parking space. The entries will accumulate so the more meetings you come to the more chances you have of winning.

I know that morning dropoff has been a lot more crowded this year, now that Kindergarten starts at the same time as our other classes. Please keep the reserved parking space available for the winner of the drawing - since they have made the effort to come to meetings and help our school, they should enjoy the benefit of their reward.

October PTA Meeting & Meet Your School Board Candidates

Our October association meeting is on Monday Oct 10th at 6pm. We have made time to have guests visit us - the candidates who are running for election for school board in Area 1 will be able to share information on why they are running, their goals, and answer questions. Elections are coming in November and this is a good opportunity to get to know the people you are voting for and making decisions about the school district. We will also have time in our meeting to discuss the Fall Festival and any other needs for our PTA

Bears in the Park

In November, our PTA Events committee is hosting a 'Bears in the Park' playdate at Curtis Park. This will be Saturday Nov 5th 10am to 12pm, and is a great way to get kids together to play and meet some new families. There will be games provided and more info will be given as we get closer.

Book Fair in November

The school will be having a book fair in November and volunteers will be needed to help set up and run the fair. More information and volunteer signups will come later. The book fair will be the week after Thanksgiving Break, Nov 28 - Dec 2. This is a week of early dismissal for parent/teacher conferences so school will be out at 12:10pm / 12:20pm. Be sure to stop by the book fair after you finish with your teacher conferences! Volunteer signups will be available in November to help with the book fair.

Reminders of Upcoming Meetings & Events

Mon Oct 10th @ 6pm: PTA meeting

Wed Oct 12th @ 6pm: Garden Committee planning meeting

Sat Oct 22nd @10am: Garden Work Day

Fri Oct 28th @ 6pm: Fall Festival

Sat Nov 5th @ 10am: Play day in the park

All of our meetings will be in the Parent Room at Bret Harte (Room 35). If you're not able to join in person, Zoom video conferencing will also be used. It is the same meeting number / passcode for all meetings. You can use this link to join with one-click, and be sure to copy/paste it into your calendars for easy access! If you put it in as the 'location' on your calendar it makes it very easy to join the video conference from your device.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8745743320?pwd=ZUxaK1p3QjhTcDNLVWo0OWg4VEZlZz09>

Or go to <https://zoom.us/join> and enter Meeting ID: 874 574 3320 and Passcode: 963258

Have a great October and I'll see you at our amazing Fall Festival :)

Adam Gothard

President, Bret Harte Bears PTA