

Bret Harte Family & Friends,

**Important Note:** all of our Zoom meetings will be using a new meeting number and passcode, see those details at the bottom of this email.

I can't believe we are already coming up on our Winter break and the end of 2021! Despite the ongoing pandemic restrictions at our school and in our community, the year was a success overall. The PTA was able to vote in new officers for this school year, add many new members, and put on several successful events and fundraisers for our Bret Harte Bears.

We're also saying goodbye to Principal James Tucker who has been with the school for the last six years. It's sad to see him go, but we're grateful for his hard work over the years and we wish him well. We hope to welcome a new principal in early 2022 and expect to have an impactful discussion at our January association meeting.

I want to start our PTA updates by thanking SO MANY people:

- For everyone that came out to the Garden Work Day in November; we got a lot done and made a big impact on the garden. There is still more to be done, so see below for other ways to help in the garden
- For our Events Committee that provided art supplies for the Thankfulness art project in November, and the Teachers who made the time and effort to get them completed! Each class has an art project on display in the cafeteria room and they look incredible! Take a moment to peek at them during drop off or pick-up.
- Everyone who collected orders for our See's Candy Fundraiser, both in-person and online.
- Our volunteers who are organizing fun events and our fundraisers
- Everyone who has been showing their love of our school through their involvement with the district's hiring process

### **January Association Meeting**

Our next association meeting will have time dedicated to open discussion on the two areas below. I hope you are able to join us and let your voice be heard. Please invite others to come as well. Our association meetings are open to the public and anyone can attend regardless of membership status in our PTA.

#### 1) School District Feedback

I have heard from several families who have expressed various thoughts and feelings with the District's hiring process for the new Principal. Our PTA Board has written a letter to those at the District involved in the process and have invited them to our January association meeting to hear any concerns or feedback. I encourage everyone to come and share their thoughts.

#### 2) Continuing to grow our values

As part of the district's hiring process and community feedback, many families and teachers have expressed values and characteristics they want to encourage within our school. Everyone present at the District's community feedback meeting provided valuable insight and perspectives to the school district. We want to continue those discussions within our PTA and dream of ways that we can foster growth in those areas at our school. Please come to the January association meeting to continue these discussions.

### **See's Candy Fundraiser**

Our fundraiser was very successful and we have raised \$1,009. Online orders are shipped directly to the customer. The in-person paperwork order forms have been collected and ordered with See's. Those items will be delivered next week before break and will be ready for pickup to be handed out to your customers.

### **Garden**

There is much work to do in the garden and we need your help. There are Garden Work Days scheduled for December and January, we hope to see you there! Kids are welcome to come help with the garden as well. In January we are partnering with radio station 105.1 KNCI who will be coming out to help and bringing their volunteers!

December Work Day = Saturday Dec 18, 10:00am to 12:00pm  
January Work Day = Saturday Jan 22, 10:00am to 12:00pm

## Reserved Parking Space

Would you like to win the reserved parking space? Come to our next association meeting in January to win the parking spot for the month of February! No more fighting for a parking space at pick-up and drop-off.

Thank you for everyone being respectful of the reserved space, please continue to leave it open to our lucky winners.

## Upcoming Events

We have many activities coming up! Please come to committee meetings to get involved or help with planning or volunteering. You can also be added to an email list specific to each committee if you are not able to attend meetings but want to stay informed or offer input via email. You can let me know which committee you want to join and I will add you to their email list.

- Thursday Dec 16 = Holiday Light Scavenger Hunt. Stop by the front of the school any time from 5:30pm to 7:00pm to pick up some hot cocoa and a game board. Then go out on your own to tour the holiday lights in the neighborhood. Bring your completed game back to the front of the school and you will be entered into a drawing to win a Gunther's Ice Cream gift card!
- Saturday Dec 18 = Garden Work Day 10:00am to 12:00pm
- Monday Jan 10 = Chipotle Fundraiser. Pick up dinner at Chipotle any time from 4:00pm to 8:00pm. **Only valid** at 4001 Freeport Blvd (corner of Freeport Blvd & Sutterville Rd). You must show the flier for in-person orders, or enter the promo code in your online order for it to count towards our fundraiser. You can show the paper flier attached to this email, or a digital copy of it. You can place an online order with Chipotle at the Freeport location and enter promo code **LRF3NT2**
- Saturday Jan 22 = Garden Work Day. 10:00am to 12:00pm

## Upcoming Meetings - **Our Zoom meeting information has changed!!**

- Note - no association meeting for December
- Monday Jan 10th 6:00pm - PTA Association Meeting
- Tuesday Jan 18th 6:00pm - Fundraising Committee Meeting
- Wednesday Jan 19th 6:00pm - Garden Committee Meeting
- Thursday Jan 20th 6:00pm - Events Committee Meeting

## **Here is the NEW meeting info for all meetings:**

(contact PTA for meeting number and password)

I hope you all have a wonderful Winter break and I look forward to hearing from you at our open discussion in January!

Adam Gothard  
President, Bret Harte Bears PTA