

Bret Harte Family & Friends,

Welcome back Bret Harte Bears and Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a happy, healthy Winter Break and holiday.

Our interim Principal, Skip Landon, will be helping our school through the month of January. Mr. Landon has worked as a principal previously and although he is retired, he works occasionally assisting the school district in temporary positions to fulfill interim needs. We are grateful to have him with us and hope you get a chance to meet him soon. The school district will be conducting another round of interviews for our new principal this month, and I will send out any public information or updates that I get on this process.

We had a great turnout last month at our Holiday Lights Scavenger Hunt event, on December 16th. There were 16 families that participated, and the Leyva family in Mr. Fong's class won the Gunther's Ice Cream gift card. THANK YOU to our Events committee - especially Janet, Lauren, and Monica, for organizing and volunteering!

### **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. The meeting is online via Zoom, meeting details are below.

#### 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. For transparency and preparation of our meeting, I have attached a copy of our communication with the school district for you to review.

#### 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 on December 1 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.

### **Chipotle Fundraiser**

On Monday Jan 10th you can pick up dinner at Chipotle anytime from 4:00pm to 8:00pm and we will receive a portion of the proceeds. **Only valid** at 4001 Freeport Blvd (corner of Freeport Blvd & Sutterville Rd). You must show the attached 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**. Grab your dinner from Chipotle and join us online for our PTA association meeting!

### **Garden**

Our Garden Work Day for January **has been rescheduled to Saturday, January 29th at 10:00am to 12:00pm** We are partnering with radio station 105.1 KNCL, who will be coming out to help and bringing their community volunteers! Please come help get the garden ready for the students to do planting in February. The December Garden Work Day had a great turnout; thank you to everyone who participated!

### **Reserved Parking Space**

Would you like to win the reserved parking space? Come to our association meeting in January for two chances to win the parking spot for the month of February or March! 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

Please come to committee meetings to help with planning or volunteering for events or fundraisers. 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.

- Each Friday in January = School Spirit Day
  - Friday Jan 7 = Bears Spirit: wear blue & white
  - Friday Jan 14 = Future Friday: dress up as what you want to be in the future
  - Friday Jan 21 = Rainbow Day: wear as many colors as possible
  - Friday Jan 28 = Fancy Friday: wear your fanciest clothes: dresses, bow ties, etc.
- Monday Jan 10 = Chipotle Fundraiser :: 4:00pm to 8:00pm. ONLY at the Freeport location.
- Saturday Jan 29 = Garden Work Day :: 10:00am to 12:00pm. Get the school garden ready for February planting and meet volunteers from radio station 105.1 KNCI

## Upcoming Meetings for planning & discussions - **Our Zoom meeting information has changed!!**

We have several general association meetings throughout the year to have large group discussions on a variety of topics. If there is something you would like to bring up for discussion at our PTA association meeting, please let me know so I can add it to our agenda. I am always looking for new ideas for our meetings. We also have small committee meetings where the work gets done - planning events and coordinating volunteering efforts. Please help in our committees! We have the same small group of people doing all the work and we could use more involvement to prevent burnout.

- Monday Jan 10th 6:00pm - PTA Association Meeting
- Wednesday Jan 19th 6:00pm - Garden Committee Meeting
- Thursday Jan 20th 6:00pm - Events Committee Meeting
- Tuesday Jan 25th 6:00pm - Fundraising Committee Meeting. (Please note: this has been rescheduled since the previous announcement)

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

(Contact PTA for meeting number and password)

I hope you all had a wonderful Winter break and a happy New Year! I know that with so many families visiting and gathering in groups over the holidays there are concerns with the spread of Covid and the omicron variant. We are also in the midst of the season for the common cold, which is also spreading around. Please keep your families healthy and safe during this time and practice good preventative measures. I hope that anyone who was able to receive at-home testing kits from the school were able to successfully submit their results online. The school district is continuing to do weekly testing for anyone that has not received a vaccine and these recurring tests are a good way to get early detection and reduce the spread. Details can be found on the school district website: <https://www.scusd.edu/covid-19-testing>

I am excited to see what new adventures await in 2022 and I look forward to hearing from you at our open discussion on January 10th. Two of my resolutions this year are to continue focusing on growing our PTA so we can have more people involved and spread out the workload, and also to prepare for the next school year in advance so we can start September with a plan and budget proposal ready to go. You might notice this newsletter is coming from our new emailer which we are migrating to so we can better maintain our contact lists and communication; this should also help in our preparation and transition for the next school year.

May this new year bring prosperity and growth for all of us, especially for our Bret Harte Bears!

Thank you,  
Adam Gothard  
President, Bret Harte Bears PTA