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# September 2017 Newsletter

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## Bowman Broadside



www.bowmanpta.org

### JOIN (OR RENEW!) TODAY!

Each year, the Bowman PTA spends nearly \$100 on each child at Bowman - for enrichment in math, science, literacy and social studies; for fun family-friendly social events throughout the year; for grants to teachers to improve their teaching craft; to bring in speakers aligned to the curriculum; and so much more! But that's only possible if we all pitch in. Won't you take 5 minutes now to join the PTA community and purchase your 2017-18 membership to continue these programs? Please help PTA by purchasing one of our membership levels:

#### Basic Membership \$25

- Support enrichment and community events at Bowman

#### Keychain Membership \$35

- Support enrichment and community events at Bowman
- 1 Bowman Bear Paw keychain (great for backpacks!)

#### Anniversary Membership \$51

- Support enrichment and community events at Bowman
- 1 Bowman Bear Paw keychain (great for backpacks!)
- 1 Bowman drawstring backpack (great for toting snow gear in winter!)

#### Bowman Pride Membership \$100

- Support enrichment and community events at Bowman
- 2 Bowman Bear Paw keychains (great for backpacks!)
- 1 Bowman drawstring backpack (great for toting snow gear in winter!)
- 1 Bowman water bottle

#### Family Pack Membership \$200

- Support enrichment and community events at Bowman
- 2 Bowman Bear Paw keychains (great for backpacks!)
- 2 Bowman drawstring backpacks (great for toting snow gear in winter!)
- 2 Bowman water bottles

#### Disco Bingo Membership \$500

- Support enrichment and community events at Bowman
- 2 Bowman Bear Paw keychains (great for backpacks!)
- 2 Bowman drawstring backpacks (great for toting snow gear in winter!)
- 2 Bowman water bottles
- Plus a special Disco BINGO pack which includes 20 Disco BINGO raffle tickets and your child guaranteed to be one of the BINGO callers on Disco Bingo Night

#### Library and Arts Membership \$500

- Support enrichment and community events at Bowman
- 2 Bowman Bear Paw keychains (great for backpacks!)
- 2 Bowman drawstring backpacks (great for toting snow gear in winter!)
- 2 Bowman water bottles
- Plus a portion of your donation is directed to Arts Created Together (ACT) for live performances that align to grade level curricula, and a book will be donated to the Bowman Library in your family's name.

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## 1 MONTHLY EVENTS

### PTA MEETING

Bowman Library  
Sept. 13, 7:00 P.M.

### PRINCIPAL/PARENT DISCUSSION

Bowman Library  
Sept. 19, 8:45 A.M.

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## 2 CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER 2017

01	No School
04	No School (Labor Day)
07 & 11	Room Parent information session
12 & 13	Big Backyard overview
13	PTA Meeting
15	PTA Welcome Back Picnic
19	Principal/Parent Discussion
21	No School (Rosh Hashanah)
28	Curriculum Night
24	Last day for Site Council submissions

### OCTOBER 2017

04	Picture Day
09	No School (Columbus Day)
22	6 <sup>h</sup> Annual Adventure Run

Please note: The PTA exists for every member of the Bowman community regardless of financial ability. The Bowman School and the Bowman PTA are committed to ensuring that cost is not a barrier to becoming a member of the PTA or participating in any of the PTA events throughout the year. Please feel free to reach out to Dr. Anton directly to privately inquire about financial assistance.

### **BE A ROOM PARENT FOR 2017-2018**

Want to support your child's classroom, EITHER volunteering IN-CLASS or helping with other tasks OUTSIDE of regular school hours?

Each Fall, the Bowman PTA asks for 3-4 parent volunteers per classroom to be Room Parents. It's a GREAT way to get to know your child's teacher, classmates, and other parents better. Room Parents divide up tasks, which typically include organizing classroom parties, communicating with classroom families, collecting and allocating classroom funds, and coordinating volunteers for activities such as Big Backyard nature walks. Parents can choose tasks which fit their schedule, including "in school" and "outside of school" hours. Many hands truly make light work! To be added as your child's room parent, sign up here <https://tinyurl.com/y9ttrbnf>

Want more information? Attend an optional (but recommended!) Room Parent Info Session (pick ONE):

**\*\* Thursday, September 7 @ 8:45-9:30 AM @ the Bowman Playground shade structure**

**\*\* Monday, September 11 @ 8:00-8:45 PM (evening meeting) at a private home (RSVP to [roomparentcoordinator@bowmanpta.org](mailto:roomparentcoordinator@bowmanpta.org) for address/details).**

Thanks in advance for helping make a difference at Bowman! Questions? Email me (Justine Cohen) at [roomparentcoordinator@bowmanpta.org](mailto:roomparentcoordinator@bowmanpta.org)

### **LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

When you think of becoming a parent volunteer at Bowman School, please remember the library. Volunteering at the library is a great experience and one of the best ways to get to know Bowman, the community and the children. This is generally a one hour commitment, once per week, during the school year to support our librarian and children as they visit the library.

Library volunteers help with checking in and out books for children, shelving books and organizing the library, and book selection. We hope you can consider giving your care and energy to the Bowman Library. The library volunteers are a lovely group of parents who typically return year after year because it's a great place to volunteer!

We welcome volunteers from all classes, but we especially need more volunteers for the following:

Thompson/Finnih (Mondays 10-11am), Sawka/Curhan (Mondays 2-3pm), Day (Wednesdays 12-1pm), Bennett/Avery (Wednesdays 1-2pm)

Please contact Monica Mahoney, Wendy Bertsekas, and Rebecca Fagan Gorospe. ([libraryvolunteers@bowmanpta.org](mailto:libraryvolunteers@bowmanpta.org)).

## **3 REMINDERS**

### **OCTOBER SUBMISSIONS**

Broadside submissions should be sent to Suman Murali ([broadside@bowmanpta.org](mailto:broadside@bowmanpta.org)). Deadline for October issue is Sept. 19th

### **TRAFFIC TIP**

Help staff out! During afternoon pick-up, please place a sign with the names of the children you are picking up in your front window.

### **LIKE US ON FACEBOOK**

Make sure to check out the PTA at our new Facebook page: [facebook.com/BowmanPTA](https://facebook.com/BowmanPTA).

## **BIG BACKYARD CONTINUES TO THRIVE AT BOWMAN**

More than 20 years ago, the Big Backyard (BBY) program was dreamed up and made possible through a collaboration between the Lexington School District and parents with funding by Lexington Education Fund (LEF). The goal – to provide real life opportunities for students to connect with nature and for students to BE THE SCIENTIST.

Today, this program is still running strong and we have a solid BBY committee at Bowman to help coordinate and organize these walks with the classroom teachers. In recent years, we have even had volunteer parents who were once 'the scientist' on those brilliant BBY walks decades ago. To make this program work successfully, we need many parent volunteers to participate on the walks. No Ph.D. level science involved here and there are only 3 seasonal walks for students each year. A pre-walk overview is always provided right beforehand so parents are well informed. Each walk will take no more than 2hrs of a volunteer's time (including the overview). This is a great opportunity to make a big impact on your child's learning with just a small commitment of time on your end.

So, keep an eye out for BBY walk dates starting at the end of the month and into early November. Volunteer with BBY and help make science come alive for our Bowman students. An excellent BBY Basics Training is also made possible by the district organized by the K-5 Science Coordinator, Karen McCarthy. See dates and times separately in this newsletter. Want to know more? Contact us at [BBY@bowmanpta.org](mailto:BBY@bowmanpta.org) (Victoria Moule, Ming Tregay, Danielle Olivier, and Lori Wright)

## **ANNUAL BIG BACKYARD PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

Karen McCarthy, K-5 Science Coordinator and Fran Ludwig, veteran K-5 Science Coordinator and walk leader When (attend only one training): **Tuesday, September 12, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. or Wednesday September 13, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** Where: Central Office, 146 Maple Street, Lower level Conference Room #9

## **A COMMUNITY THAT PICNICS TOGETHER**

Come join us **Friday September 15th, starting at 5 p.m.** for a back-to-school family picnic at Bowman! It'll be a great opportunity to see our children play together and visit with other Bowman families as we start off the school year. A blanket and basket of yummy food and drinks to enjoy is all you'll need. There will be a raffle for a new Keurig machine for all current AND new PTA members! So be sure to sign-up at the PTA membership table that will be there, if you haven't done so online already. Finally, keep an eye out for Bowman's most famous PTA member...will you be able to spot him?

## **MSA – MY SCHOOL ANYWHERE (BOWMAN PTA DIRECTORY)**

Bowman PTA contributes and conducts many activities throughout the year. As a parent it is a great way to contribute towards these various activities conducted at school by taking the membership and also volunteering. It's a network to keep all parents connected and feel part of your child's growth.

Bowman PTA uses MySchoolAnywhere (MSA) to manage the online student directory and PTA Membership. We strongly suggest ALL parents to register in MSA to confirm personal data and ASSIGN child's teacher in Bowman online directory. By giving/updating your data you can be connected with all the parent community of Bowman. An email with the personalized e-confirmation link will be sent to all parents registered in Bowman Directory. E-confirmation link will take you to the Bowman PTA store where you can choose to purchase PTA Yearly Membership.

Are you new to Bowman and would you like to contact your child's classmates then this is right place to look for. Register yourself by visiting [bowmanPta.org/membership/](http://bowmanPta.org/membership/). Click JOIN/RENEW NOW link to register yourself to Bowman Directory and become a member of Bowman PTA Family.

## DIRECTORY COVER DESIGN CONTEST

ALL BOWMAN STUDENTS can participate in designing the cover for the print directory, which is available ONLY for the PTA members. We will send more information with contest rules and dates in the flyer in the 3rd week of September.

## CALLING ALL PARENTS!

This year's school photos are being taken on **Wednesday, October 4th**. Make a note on your calendars to get your son or daughter spruced up and looking picture perfect that morning. Picture forms will be sent home in your child's folder the end of Sept. Please fill these out and bring them in by Oct. 4th. If you order online, please print the confirmation out and send that in with your child.

Additionally, the PTA is in need of some volunteers to assist with getting the kids camera ready. Please sign up for a shift at the below link anytime between 9AM and 1PM or contact Michelle Andronaco at [schoolphotos@bowmanpta.org](mailto:schoolphotos@bowmanpta.org). Your help will keep picture day flowing smoothly and will be greatly appreciated.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D44A4AF2AA1FC1-bowman1>

Happy fall! - Michelle Andronaco, Bowman PTA member

## BOWMAN'S 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ADVENTURE RUN 5K AND KIDS ¾ MILE FUN RUN

Save the date: **Sunday, October 22, 2017**

Kids fun run 1:30 PM; 5k 2:00 PM

Enjoy a fall afternoon with this fun event that will take you through the streets of the Bowman neighborhood, ending with the Dunback Meadow boardwalk and trails... lace up your running or walking shoes and come be a part of the Adventure! Post race party to follow behind the school with free food, DJ, crazy hair coloring, prizes for top finishers, jump house, fun and more! **On- line registration is now open. Click on the link below. Sign up now for early bird discount prior to October 15th. First 150 5k sign ups will get a Bowman Adventure Run t-shirt** [http://www.NorthShoreTimingOnline.com/reglivecb.aspx?eventyear\\_id=1446](http://www.NorthShoreTimingOnline.com/reglivecb.aspx?eventyear_id=1446)

\*Registration is for the 5K not the fun run. Fun run participants will sign waiver day of race.

## BOWMAN SITE COUNCIL SEEKING ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Interested in playing a leadership role at Bowman? Are you available for one morning meeting a month (on a Friday, 7:45-8:45am)? **We are looking for one additional parent to serve on the School Based Site Council for a two-year term!** Why not you?

This is a great opportunity to learn about Bowman and contribute to the Bowman community. If you are interested, please send us a short bio (max of 150 words) by **Sunday, September 24th 10pm**. For contested elections, an online election will take place from Monday, September 25th until Sunday, October 1st to select the final parent representative.

As part of the Education Reform Act of 1993, Site-Based Councils were mandated as part of the Act's decentralization of decision-making. The Site Council is composed of equal numbers of elected teachers and parents, together with the Principal and a community representative. The role of the Site Council is to advise the Principal. At Bowman, Site Council members meet once a month with Dr. Anton and Bowman teachers to plan ways to meet the diverse learning needs of students; establish a school climate of tolerance and respect for every individual; involve parents in the life of the school; impact safety and discipline; enhance extracurricular activities; and more.

If you have any questions about the Site Council or if you are interested in running for the open seat, please contact us at [president@bowmanpta.org](mailto:president@bowmanpta.org).

## METCO PROGRAM

We have 6 new METCO students entering Bowman this Fall. They are in grades K, 1 and 2. We are in search of families to host them and be their Family Friends through the METCO program. The Family Friend playdates are the following this year: October 26, 2017 , November 30, 2017 , December 21, 2017, April 12, 2018, May 10, 2018 and June 14, 2018. Please contact Sarah Wolfson ([metzger.sarah@gmail.com](mailto:metzger.sarah@gmail.com)) with any questions about the METCO program and if you have interest in hosting a student this year for the above dates! Thanks!

## PTA OPEN POSITIONS

Please contact the Co-Presidents at [president@bowmanpta.org](mailto:president@bowmanpta.org) if you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities.

**VP Events, Community:** Help coordinate various events throughout the year that foster community building among Bowman families. This is a good position for returning or new Bowman parents who is interested in getting involved and who can attend monthly PTA meetings.

**VP Events, Extracurricular:** Help coordinate various events throughout the year that specifically enhance the classroom curriculum. This is a good position for returning or new Bowman parents who is interested in getting involved and who can attend monthly PTA meetings.

**VP Events, Fundraising:** Support existing fundraising initiatives such as Spirit Wear, Shopping Days, Class Raffles while seeking new fundraising opportunities in conjunction with PTA Board. This is a good position for returning or new Bowman parents who is interested in getting involved and who can attend monthly PTA meetings.

**VP School Support:** Works with volunteers and the PTA board to oversee a wide range of initiatives including: 5th Grade Activities, Hospitality, Library Volunteers, Lost & Found Coordinator, METCO Family Friends, Playground Equipment, Room Parent Coordinator, Staff Appreciation Week and others. This positions calls for someone who is comfortable checking in with existing volunteers and helping recruit new ones as necessary.

**Passport to the World Coordinator:** Two or three volunteers needed to coordinate this annual spring event highlighting and celebrating the many different cultures and backgrounds that make up Bowman. Volunteers on this project will work as a team to plan a one day event that involves Parents, Teachers and School Staff.

**Welcoming Committee:** Focus on welcoming new families that enter the Bowman community during the school year. Volunteers will be asked to reach out to new families and serve as a resource to them.

**BOKS Coordinator:** Building Our Kids Success is a before school program that typically runs 45 minutes and includes relay races and games with a focus on certain functional movements. The program also includes a nutritional component to complete the picture by helping kids make healthy choices. This position is great for someone who is enthusiastic about health and fitness and comfortable running sports and fitness related activities in the gym. There is already a list of activities and information on how to facilitate this twice weekly program.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT LEF

Lexington Education Foundation (LEF) brings the community together to build, sustain and celebrate the excellence of the Lexington Public Schools. The volunteer-run nonprofit organization raises financial support from families and businesses in Lexington to fund exceptional educational activities that address the Lexington Public Schools' priorities but fall outside the scope of the LPS budget. Every year LEF supports educational innovation in all nine of our public schools. Last year, LEF awarded the equivalent of \$35 for every student, funding 39 grants that enabled more than 175 LPS staff to pursue their passion for educating our children. Thanks to recent grants from LEF, there are now robotics programs in all nine schools; Spanish, French, Mandarin and German classes have been enriched with new materials; and LEF continues to support LPS's efforts to reduce student stress and build stronger communities. Learn more about LEF's impact and ways to get involved by visiting [www.lexedfoundation.org](http://www.lexedfoundation.org), or contacting Bowman School's LEF representative, Valerie Machinist at [prbowman@lexedfoundation.org](mailto:prbowman@lexedfoundation.org).