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The Bitney Springs High School News

Volume 8 Issue 1
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Week of

The Bitney Springs High School News is a weekly publication distributed each Tuesday to parents, students and the community. If you have information for an upcoming issue, please E-mail jan@tincatmedia.com or leave a phone message at 530.477.2274.

WELCOME

Bitney Springs High School welcomes all new and returning students and parents. This is our 7th year of operation, and the faculty and staff have a fantastic year planned. We also have some new additions to our school staff. Please join us in welcoming Susan Wondergem, our new office manager, Mary Abbott teaching English 10 and English 11, Patty Arnold our new computer arts teacher, Jeff Wright teaching a 7th period Music elective and Jenny Redden teaching a 7th period Yoga elective. In addition to these new staff members, we are fortunate to have two new international exchange students with us this year (hosted by Bitney families) — Marie Fournier is from France and Omer Shahzad is from Pakistan.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE

Currently, approximately 100 students are enrolled at the school. We are receiving new student inquiries almost every day and a number of families are scheduled for enrollment conferences. With our current staffing and policies to maintain small class sizes, we still have room for several more students. If you know of any good prospects, please have them take a look at our Web site: www.bitneysprings.net and/or contact the school office.

WILDERNESS WEEK – Week of September 19th at Camp Augusta in Nevada City

Information about Wilderness Week has been circulated, but more chaperones—especially men—are still needed. If you can help or want to find out more about what's involved, please contact Marie McCluskey at mccluskey@wizwire.com or call her at 268-9702. Because Camp Augusta is so close by (just outside of Nevada City), you don't have to commit to chaperoning for the entire week.

Cost for Wilderness Week is \$125.00 (there is no cost for chaperones). If you haven't already done so, please make your check payable to "BSHS Parent Council," and either mail it to the school or drop it off at the office. (For financial assistance, or to make alternate payment arrangements, please contact the school office.)

POLICY CHANGES

The 2005-2006 Student Handbook contains several policy changes regarding the: Admissions Policy, School Boundaries, Cheating, Cut/Tardy Policy, Disciplinary Referrals, and Visitors on Campus. Be sure to take a few moments to review these changes.

MILITARY OPT OUT FORM

Parents who attended the Orientation and Schedule evenings just before the start of school, did not get the updated "opt-out" form—the form allows students and parents to decide who (military, media, etc.) has access to your student's contact information. The updated forms are available in the office. We plan to send them out to all families with our next mailing, however, you can pick one up at the school or call Susan Wondergem and ask her to E-mail one to you sooner. Please sign and return them to the office.

CALENDAR DATE CHANGE

There will be no school on January 2, 2006.

STUDENT GRADES AND HOMEWORK AVAILABLE ONLINE

Your student's grades and homework are posted online every two weeks. The first grade posting is scheduled for September 7th. We hope to have homework posted this week as well. Go to http://www.bitneysprings.net/get_homework_report.html and enter your student's ID number and name (last name, first name). If you don't know your students ID number or need assistance please call the school office.

MARKETING & FUNDRAISING COMMITTEES

The marketing committee (of which fundraising is currently a part) is in the process of collecting data for our marketing/public relations plan. If you receive a questionnaire, please take a few minutes to fill it out and return it per the instructions. The goal of the committee is to present the plan to the Charter Council in October and finalize it before the end of the year.

ON-GOING MEETINGS –GET INVOLVED

The Parent Council is a vital support group for BSHS. Meetings are held at 6:00pm at the school on the first Monday of every month. **September's meeting was rescheduled to September 12 to accommodate the Labor Day holiday**. By taking an active role, parents make the most of the opportunity to be involved in their children's' education. Looking for more information, contact Susan Dunn (272-5953), Parent Council President.

The Bitney Springs Charter Council is the governing body for the High School. The Council normally meets at 6:00pm on the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for September 14th. See the [school calendar](#) for details. The meetings are open to the public and the agenda is posted at least 48 hours before each regular meeting. Minutes from Charter Council meetings are available at the school office. Go to our [downloads](#) section to download a copy of our bylaws.

ONGOING PAINLESS FUNDRAISING WHILE YOU SHOP

Help earn money for the school the easy way. Shopping for food or buying items online are just two of the numerous ways you can bring money to our school (at no cost to you). Raleys and Safeway cards are available and must be registered online EVERY YEAR. Pick up redemption slips and SPD coupons in the office. Shopping online? You can also earn money for the school by visiting the E-scrip website: <http://www.escrip.com/program/about.jsp>. When used consistently, these painless fundraisers are a great way to raise a lot of money for our school.

A parent is needed to help coordinate the use and distribution of Grocery Cards (a big thank you goes to our last coordinator - Diana Schilke – who recently moved back east after her son, Carl, graduated last June and headed off to college) and information on other painless

fundraisers. If you are looking for a way to help out, or think you might be interested, please contact Susan Dunn (272-5953), Parent Council president.

PLEDGES

Like all public schools, state revenues continue to fall short of meeting our budgetary needs and we must rely on other sources of income to balance our budget. Fundraisers are one source of income we are actively pursuing, but its not enough at this time and many funding sources require evidence of widespread support from the school community. All parents attending the Orientation and Schedule evenings received information on pledging and a pledge form. Please read it over, decide what you can give, and return it to the school ASAP. If you didn't receive one (or can't find it) please call the school office to have one sent to you. Thank you for your support!

UPCOMING EVENTS

"Gypsy Soul" ~ September 16 & 17 ~ Center for the Arts, at 8:00 pm. This is a community dance show and benefit for Bitney Springs High School. Can you help? Natina, our dance instructor, needs several parents and students to help backstage and take tickets—students will receive community service hours for helping. Contact Natina Pistone (477-1596) for more information.

STILL WISHING FOR....

The school is *still* looking for a power lawn mower (a riding mower was just donated!) and a weed wacker, DVD players and VCRs, and 1 door (for a 3 foot opening) and newer computers with Ethernet connections.

SUGGESTION BOX

Have great ideas or suggestions for the school? Want to make a comment, but are reluctant to identify yourself? After September 1, there will be a suggestion box located on the counter in the school office. All suggestions will be read by a member of the Charter Council and distributed appropriately.

THANK YOU

Special thanks to Alison Rapp, Lora Willis, Susan Dunn, and Marie McCluskey for making our Orientation evenings a success.

