Steele School PTA
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The Steele Scoop

This monthly newsletter is meant to bring you the most up-to-date information about what's happening in and around our Baldwin School community. We hope that this information will help you be better informed about your children and their education. We encourage everyone to get involved to make your children's education the best it can possibly be. Brought to you by the Steele School PTA.

Dates to Know

Apr 2-10	School Closed
Apr 13	New Parent Orientation – 5th grade (MS)
	Concerned Parents of Baldwin (HS)
Apr 14	Baldwin Foundation for Education (DO)
Apr 15	Board of Ed Meeting (DO)
Apr 16	Baldwin Civic Association (HS)
Apr 17	Family Fun Night/BINGO (BMS)
Apr 17&20	Clothing Drive (Bike Room)
Apr 18	Car Wash Fundraiser
Apr 20	Steele PTA Meeting
Apr 21	SEPTA Meeting, Resource Fair (MS)
	Baldwin Foundation for Education (DO)
Apr 27	There is school this day
Apr 28&29	Book Fair – BYGO
Apr 29	PTA - Board of Ed Candidates Forum (DO)
Apr 30	Friends of Music (HS)

Highlights from March

March was a crazy month. Who would've thought that we'd get a snow day and a burst water main all in the same week? Even though the weather hasn't cooperated and they've had to be inside for recess most of the month, Steele students aren't letting that keep them down. The students have been busier than ever. They've been participating in everything from District Basketball shootouts to creating their own wax museum. Check out the school Facebook page for great pictures of everything that the students have been up to:
https://www.facebook.com/SteeleElementary

We hope you enjoyed March Mathness. The teachers worked hard to put together a fun, month long program to get the kids excited about math. And March 26th was hip-hop day. Each grade learned an action packed routine and then performed for the whole school.

On March 11th Steele School received a visit from the High School Heroes. The Students from the Future Business Leaders of America taught all the classes about personal and community finance. It was great to see familiar faces returning to Steele to work with our kids. Pictures from the day can be viewed at:
https://picasaweb.google.com/111288587472578695277/HighSchoolHeroesSteeleFBLA

On March 27th the second graders turned the gym into a historical wax museum. Each second grader dressed up to represent an important character in history while they educated the other students with information about their character.

At the end of March the gym was once again converted to a Health Fair. The children learned about safety, hygiene, nutrition and fitness from the visiting experts. Look out, they probably know more than you now about being safe and healthy.

Around Our School

Thanks to Lynda Lignowski for arranging the **Anti-Bullying workshop**, which was presented by Shunato Karate. The event finally took place in the beginning of March after being rescheduled twice because of the snow. Shunato donated their time to present a one-hour hands-on workshop, where the children were able to learn a few self-defense techniques, the appropriate time to use karate, and some Japanese words. The kids were even given the opportunity to break wooden boards with their hands. Thanks again to Shunato who did not charge us for this program.

Thank you to Tracy Mahler who organized the Brokerage Comedy Night 5th grade fundraiser at the end of February. We hope everyone who attended had a rip roaring good time.

It is state testing month. To all the students that are choosing to take the state tests, we wish you all well. Don't panic and don't stress out. If you are choosing to opt-out and don't know how please contact Mrs. Presti to discuss the process.

Upcoming Events

Family Fun Bingo night is Friday, April 17th. Please don't forget to send in your donations for the class baskets and the grocery bag items. Bingo night is always a great night. Hope to see you all there.

There will be a **clothing drive** on Friday April 17th and Monday April 20th. You can drop off donations in the bicycle room before and after school on both of those days.

The **Book Fair** is coming! It's "Buy One Get One Free", the best kind there is. The Book Fair will be held on April 28th and 29th. You will receive a flyer with the time that your child's class is scheduled to participate. All parents are invited to attend the book fair during your child's scheduled time. If you would like to volunteer to help out during the book fair please contact Kathy Englehart.

The **Steele School Car Wash Fundraiser** that was postponed due to rainy weather in the fall has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 18th. There will also be a bake sale to support the 5th grade. If you are interested in volunteering that day, contact Kim Bell.

The **teacher appreciation lunch** will take place on May 6th. We know you are working hard for our children and we appreciate all that you do.

Field Trips for the students are coming up over the next couple of months. Your child's teacher will contact you with specifics for your class.

Keep an eye out in early May for the **family surveys.** The Steele Climate Committee will be conducting the surveys again to see how we are doing. Households that return a survey will receive coupons for Panera Bread, Applebees and Noodle Company, and also will be entered into a drawing to win an iPad mini. This survey is used to measure our progress from the beginning of the year. It also serves as part of the application process for the PTA School of Excellence accreditation.

Clubs

The **Garden Club** welcomed in spring by planting seeds. The seeds will be grown inside in tabletop greenhouses until the weather is warm enough to plant them outside. Garden Club will kick into full gear in May.

We are very excited to announce that we will be bringing the **Chess Nuts Club** to Steele School in the Fall. We know that there are many aspiring chess players out there that are looking forward to joining the club.

Our Community

The **school Budget Vote** is coming up. In March, the Board of Education presented their proposed budget to the parents at Steele School. The details of this budget can be found at: **http://www.baldwinschools.org/boe/budget-1516**. The budget vote is on **May 19th**. Please do not forget to vote. It is very important for the community and the school that every votes.

Shout Outs

The Student Council has spent this year doing some great work on behalf of others. They collected food for families during the holidays. And over these cold months, they have collected coats, hats and gloves for those that are in need. Thank you to the Student Council for taking the time to help those that really need it.

Reminders

Because of the number of **snow days** this year there are 2 days that now are different from the original calendar. Monday, April 27th, which was scheduled as a day off for the children, but a professional development day for the staff, is now a full day of school for both children and staff. Also, Friday, May 22nd is now a regular school day as well. The early dismissal drill will be held on that day.

Sites to Know:
www.baldwinschools.org/schools/steele
www.facebook.com/SteeleElementary
www.facebook.com/SteeleSchoolPTA
baldwinarts.wix.com/arts
www.steeleschoolpta.com