

BOBCAT BANNER

Buena Vista Elementary PTA Newsletter



Letter from Mr. Burgess

Welcome Back Bobcats!

After a summer full of swim meets, family time and traveling around the world, Welcome Back. We all look forward to hearing about your great adventures and experiences.

It has been a very busy summer in preparation for a great 2018 - 2019 school year. Our amazing staff has been busy attending and presenting at many professional development trainings throughout the summer and have traveled from Italy to San Diego to Sharpen Their Saw. Speaking of Sharpening Your Saw, Buena Vista is blessed to have such amazing students with tremendous leadership skills and we plan to bring these to the forefront this year. We will be focusing on "The Leader In Me" traits to help guide our student leaders.

Unity Days will be a great addition each month. As our students and grade levels prepare their PBLs, Project Based Learning, we will host a 60- 90 minute community presentation under their leadership. What better way to experience our students and their learning than through their guidance.

Safety and Security will continue to be a high priority. I am asking for your assistance in a couple of specific areas, the development of our Watchdog Program -- volunteers to be roving security staff. More to come. The second, Enoree Road. We will be opening up our drop off line at 7:15 each morning in hope of eliminating the need to drop our students off on Enoree Road. This is such a dangerous situation that has had so many close calls. Your assistance with this is greatly appreciated.



Scan here for an
online version

I am thrilled to welcome everyone back, including our new staff members, and look forward to a fantastic 2018-19 school year.

David Burgess

The mission of Buena Vista Elementary School is to educate students while supporting them socially and emotionally as they develop into responsible 21st Century learners.

PTA

everychild.one voice.®

Buena Vista Elementary
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BV Sponsorship Information

Do you or someone you know have a business that they would like to advertise? Join our corporate sponsors. We offer many levels of sponsorships for you to choose from. This is a great way to promote your business and help the kids have a wonderful school year! Corporate sponsorship deadline for the 2018-2019 school year is **September 20**. Please contact Adawn Smith at adawnsmith@me.com or Tasha Demirel at tasha.demirel@gmail.com.

Are You Receiving our Weekly Newsflash?

The BV PTA's Newsflash email is the BEST way to receive up-to-date information and communications coming from Buena Vista staff and PTA volunteers. Don't miss out on important announcements and info! "Opt In" to this newsletter by entering your email address at the bottom of the home page on www.bvpta.net. Or email Keri Dille at keridille@charter.net.

2018 Safety Updates from Mrs. McFadden

Welcome back Bobcats! We are so excited for the 2018-2019 school year. I got married this summer and my new name is Mrs. McFadden! The safety of your students is a top priority at Buena Vista. Please review the safety reminders below to ensure the safety of all of our students:

- Please remember to follow the dress code found in the student handbook.
- If your kindergarten or first grade student is going to **ride the bus home from school or walk**, you must come to meet the teacher or come by the office to complete a designee form and receive your dismissal tag prior to your student riding the bus or walking home from school.
- During school hours all visitors must sign in through the front office. Please make sure to bring a picture ID with you when you are visiting the school.
- Students can be dropped off via the front carpool line between 7:15-7:55. **Do not drop students off before 7:15**, there will not be an adult to supervise them until 7:15. We will have a barricade set up until 7:15 to prevent early drop off. Members of Safety Patrol and Chorus will receive information pertaining to their drop off.
- Volunteers for field trips or working with individuals or small groups of students must complete a Volunteer II application form. We will be sending information on how to complete this process online. If you completed this last year you will receive an email from the new system called Raptor. Volunteers will be informed of the expiration of your background check based on a random 3-year rotation. Once your background check is completed in the new system it will be good for 3 years.
- All students should be dropped off at a safety patrol and cross the road only at the area where the crossing guard is located. Students should never be dropped off on the side of any road!

Thank you for helping to ensure the safety of all students!

A Word from our PTA President

Welcome back to all returning families and a big WELCOME to all new families. I am so proud and honored to volunteer as your PTA President this year with an amazing group of parent volunteers, a dedicated PTA Executive Board, wonderful teachers, and a fantastic administrative staff.

As we begin another school year, we ask for your support in continuing to make resources and learning opportunities available to our students. The PTA works together with teachers, staff, parents, and our community to support all of the amazing programs here at BVES, which in turn really does make it "Someplace Special." Thanks to your overwhelming support, last year's funds (raised through Fall Fundraiser, Friends of BVES, Bobcat Fun Run, and Bobcat Bash Carnival) helped to purchase many new books and additional technology for the media center.

For the PTA to be effective and truly representative of the school, everyone's participation is essential. A volunteer information sheet is included in your First Day Packet. Please complete the Google Form and choose the area(s) where you'd like to contribute your ideas, time, and talents. We'd also love to have you at our monthly PTA Board meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM in the cafeteria.

We have a lot of exciting news to share with you! Please visit the PTA website (www.bvpta.net) often to keep up-to-date on BVES events. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram (@bvepta) or Twitter (@bvepta).

On behalf of the PTA Executive Board, I thank you in advance for all your support. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

-- Marissa Moore -- marissabmoore@gmail.com

From Attendance Clerk Amy David



Students need to be in school every day so that they can achieve to their highest potential. If students are ill with a fever, remember to keep them at home until they have been fever-free for a full 24 hours without fever reduction medication. South Carolina has a compulsory attendance law which requires students who are absent to abide by the following:

- There are only 10 absences allowed for each student each year. These absences may be excused or unexcused.
- When a student is absent, either lawfully or unlawfully, a parental written excuse, including date and reason for absence, is expected on the child's first day back to school. E-mails and/or phone calls to the teacher are not acceptable forms of excuses.
- Excused may be submitted through the Attendance tab on the school website.
- On the 11th non-medical absence and every absence after the 11th, the student must present a doctor's note to validate the student's absence from school.
- A student may be considered for retention in their current grade if excessive absences accrue.
- If a student has 3 consecutive unexcused absences, school intervention is required.
- If a student has a total of 5 unexcused absences, school intervention is required.
- Please know that family trips or vacations are not excused absences from school.
- If a family needs a special request for excused absence from school, a written request must be made to the principal, Dave Burgess, in advance of the absence.

Greenville County Schools' Ignore the Door Campaign

At Buena Vista, various safety measures including safety plans and strict check-in procedures are in place to help keep our school safe. While those safety measures are important, the most crucial element is everyone's involvement. One simple, yet important effort is for everyone to ensure all exterior doors are locked and closed at all times AND never opened to allow anyone to enter the building. This will ensure that all visitors must enter the school through the main entrance. This safety effort is being stressed in all Greenville County schools through the Ignore the Door campaign that includes signage on all exterior doors with the following wording:

Ignore the Door! Keep Your School Safe!

Never open a door to let anyone in the building – Even if it's someone you know!

The safety of our students and others requires *everyone* working together. Please do your part by supporting the school's safety efforts and *Ignore the Door!*



Be an iREADer!!

The iREAD Program rewards students who read for 20 minutes on at least 20 days during the school months with a small prize and by entering them into BVTV's monthly grade-level drawing for a \$10 gift card!

2nd-5th graders who complete a simple iREADer Book Review are eligible to be invited to share the book recommendation on BVTV! K5 and 1st grade may write a simple sentence or draw a picture to be eligible to read the book to a member of Administration. Winners receive an iReader book bag and the class with the most reports receives \$15 for books for the classroom.

October will be our first month! Look for your Calendar to come home and start recording reading and encouraging book reviews! For further info, please email Katie Hill at katiemyershill@gmail.com.

Bobcat Boulders

Send out a special message for all to see on a Bobcat Boulder! Your child would love to see a birthday or other positive message personalized just for them. **NEW this year, in addition to our Car Line Boulder is a Back Path Boulder for students who walk the back path to school.** Reserve your spot well in advance, as days book up quickly. It costs only \$10 a day. You bring your own paint and paint your reserved rock at the following times:

- Car Line Boulder - after 3:00pm the day before your specific reserved date so your message is ready to view the next morning.
- Back Path Boulder – between 3:00pm and 6:45pm on the day before your specific reserved date to ensure school gates are open. Gates are locked promptly at 6:45pm.

Sign up online beginning **Sunday, August 19th at 8:00pm** on the PTA website. Please only recognize students on the Bobcat Boulder. Teacher birthdays will be recognized on the electronic sign out front. Questions? Email Sarah Whitmire at snwhitmire@gmail.com.

Annual Fall Fundraiser

This year, Friends of Buena Vista is serving as the ONLY fall fundraiser. When you give to Friends of Buena Vista, 100% of the money stays at Buena Vista and is spent on your child in the current school year. Any dollar amount is appreciated and welcomed. Prizes will be awarded for specific dollar amount donations. Individuals, families, or businesses with a cumulative donation of **\$100.00** or more will be recognized in a weekly Newsflash and will receive a "Friends of BVES" car sticker. Your donation is tax deductible and your check can serve as your receipt for tax purposes. Our Friends of Buena Vista Fundraiser runs from September 11th to 26th. Be on the lookout for more information and donation forms in your child's Tuesday Folder. Thanks in advance for your support of BVES!

PTA Membership

Be a STAR on the PTA Hall of Fame! Turn in your membership form and dues by **Wed, Sept 19th** and help your child's class reach the 100% membership goal. If your child's class reaches this goal, the class can participate in Movie Star Day. This day will take place on **Fri, Sept 21st** and successful classes can dress as a movie star or celebrity. This includes hats, sunglasses and any other interpretation that is desired! Membership forms can be found in the first day packets and can also be accessed on the PTA Website www.bvpta.net

Box Top Fans, Old & New!

The Box Tops committee is very excited for another year of earning "free money" for our school. Just look for the little pink Box Top on participating food products and school supplies. We are going to have our back-to-school Box Tops blitz September 24 through 28. So please help us surpass what we earned last year. Look for more information in September.

For more information on participating products and rules, visit the Box Tops page listed under Programs on bvpta.net or check out btfe.com.

Questions? Email lara.disher@gmail.com



Early Risers

Early Risers needs volunteers! Early Risers is a computer guided remediation program that offers focused instruction to identified students.



The program emphasizes several different curriculum areas, with the goal of helping to improve test scores and classroom achievement. Early Risers begins in late fall/early winter and meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays before school from 7:25-7:55 in the computer lab. Contact Stacie Bryant at staciemoegling@gmail.com to volunteer.

Brain Builders

Brain Builders needs your help! Volunteering as a Bobcat Brain Builder is a great way to support a student who needs a little extra help. Just 30 minutes a week – no experience needed. Tutoring your student can be as simple as reading or working with flash cards, and your student's teacher will provide the materials needed for your weekly session. Tutoring will begin in October. Our teachers need volunteers in order to make this valuable program work. If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Shannon Kojah at shannko@yahoo.com.



Backpack Buddies

Backpack Buddies is looking forward to another great year helping out kids in our own Buena Vista family. Our committee provides food items that are sent home every weekend with students that qualify for free and reduced lunch. We accept food and financial donations to help meet our needs. We rely on our volunteers for packing and inventory. We meet weekly on Friday mornings to assemble and distribute packages to the children. The program will start towards the end of September.



Please contact Barna Gupta at (845) 641-6135, family@thegupta.com, or Margo Pons (864) 244-5225, margopons@bellsouth.net if you would like to help in any way.

Keeping Your Children Safe To and From School

Drivers

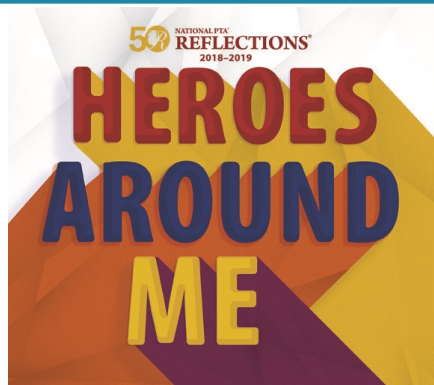
- Be aware of children walking to/from school and children waiting for their bus.
- Near school zones and bus stops, slow down and take extra caution.
- Be aware of school start and dismissal times.
- Obey traffic signals, signs and crossing guards.
- Never drop a student off on a side road, like Enoree Rd. To ensure the safety of our students and not disrupt the steady flow of traffic, all students should be dropped at a safety patrol.

Students Walking to/from School

- An adult should supervise child until child demonstrates traffic skills and judgment.
- Parent should walk with child at least once to ensure the child follows the safest route.
- Obey traffic signals, signs and crossing guards.
- Before crossing any road, look left, right, and left again. Only cross at corners, using crosswalk when available.
- Walk, do not run, while crossing and look both ways.
- Do not enter the street from behind bushes or from between parked cars.
- Walk on the sidewalk. If no sidewalk, walk single file, facing traffic.
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up.

Students Riding the Bus to/from School

- Ensure that supervising adults/older children have the bus tag card to pick up kindergarten and first grade students at the bus stop at the appointed time!
- An adult should supervise child until child demonstrates traffic skills and judgment.
- Parent should walk with child at least once to the stop so the child knows the safest route.
- Leave home on time to ensure you are at the bus stop before the bus arrives.
- If bus stop is across the road, look left, right and left again before crossing.
- Walk on the sidewalk. If no sidewalk, walk single file, facing traffic.
- Do not play and run at/near bus stop.
- Stand as far away from the road as possible.
- Never run to catch the bus or walk behind the bus.
- Enter the bus only after it has made a complete stop; remain in seat while the bus is in motion.
- Be aware of traffic when exiting the bus.
- Parents should wait on same side of road as bus stop.



PTA Reflections – “Heroes Around Me”

Calling all artists! The National PTA is looking to recognize some outstanding artists, and your student might be one of them! Each year, the PTA sponsors the Reflections contest to encourage students to express themselves through art. This school year’s theme is “Heroes Around Me.” We encourage every Buena Vista student to explore what the theme means and submit an entry. The Reflections contest has six categories: dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and visual arts. Look for more information on the contest rules and deadlines on the Buena Vista website and the PTA’s Newsflash in the coming months, but in the meantime, inspire your students to explore their artistic side!

Upcoming Important Dates

This info is subject to change. Please refer to the Calendar on our website, bvpta.net, or the Newsflash for updates.

AUGUST

- 8/20 – FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
- 8/20 – New Parent Orientation 8:00am in Cafeteria
- 8/20 – New Board Member Orientation 10:00am
- 8/31 – July/ August Birthday Celebrations

SEPTEMBER

- 9/3 – Labor Day, NO SCHOOL
- 9/4 – Room Parent’s Meeting at SCR1 9:30am
- 9/5 – PTA Board Meeting 9:30am in Cafeteria
- 9/7 – BV Skate Day 3:30-5:30pm
- 9/10-14 – Backpack Buddies Food Drive
- 9/10 – Open House K-2, General PTA Mtg 6:00pm
- 9/11 – Challenge Meeting for NEW Families 6:00pm
- 9/11 – Open House 3-5, General PTA Mtg 6:30pm
- 9/11-26 – Friends of BVES Fundraiser
- 9/17 – 1st Quarter Progress Reports
- 9/19 – PTA Membership Drive Ends
- 9/21 – PTA Membership Incentive Date
- 9/24-28 – Back-to-School Box Tops Blitz
- 9/25 – Spirit Night, Chick-fil-A 5:30-7:30pm
- 9/28 – September Birthday Celebration

OCTOBER

- 10/1-5 – Grandparent’s Lunch Week and Book Fair
- 10/3 – PTA Board Meeting 9:30am in Cafeteria
- 10/5 – BV Skate Day 3:30-5:30pm
- 10/19 – October Birthday Celebration
- 10/22 – Teacher Work Day, NO SCHOOL
- 10/23-26 – Red Ribbon Week
- 10/24-26 – CogAT Testing (Grade 2)
- 10/26 – Bobcat Bash Carnival 3:30-7:30pm
- 10/28 – Spirit Night, Swamp Rabbits 3pm
- 10/29-30 – Iowa Testing (Grade 2)
- 10/30 – 1st Quarter Report Card

NOVEMBER

- 11/5-6 – Election Break, NO SCHOOL
- 11/7 – PTA Board Meeting 9:30am
- 11/7-16 – Backpack Buddies Food Drive
- 11/9 – BV Skate Day 3:30-5:30pm
- 11/13-16 – 5th Grade to Washington DC
- 11/21-23 – Thanksgiving Break, NO SCHOOL
- 11/27 – 2nd Quarter Progress Reports
- 11/30 – November Birthday Celebration



Greetings from the Bobcat Café

We will be serving the culinary meals again this school year and as always we provide breakfast and lunch. The cost of the meals are as follows:

BREAKFAST		LUNCH	
All Students	Free	Full Pay	\$2.50
Adult	\$2.10	Reduced	\$0.40
		Adult	\$3.80

We will also sell healthy snacks at lunch time. If you would not like your child to be able to purchase these, please send in a note so we can block these purchases in the computer.

Free and Reduced applications will come home in the first day packets or you can complete one online beginning **Aug 1** at greenville.schoollunchapp.com. Please remember that all students need to re-apply each year. There is a grace period for students already on free or reduced lunch until **October 6**. Anyone applying for the first time or after the October 6th grace period is responsible for any meals purchased until the form is approved.



Welcome New Buena Vista Staff

We are excited to welcome new staff members to Buena Vista this year. Please give a hearty Bobcat welcome to:

- Lorian Norris – Kindergarten Aide
- Alicia Brown – 1st Grade
- Janell Pitman – 1st Grade
- Patrice Powe – 1st Grade
- Margaret Clark – 4th Grade
- Alexis Corso – 5th Grade
- Hunter Fridy – Media Center Clerk
- Pamela Bloom - Music
- Leigh Croyle - Guidance

Memories are Made to be Remembered!

Yearbook sales will begin on the first day of school -- don't miss out on the only way you are guaranteed a yearbook full of this coming year's adventures! Make sure to look for the order form included in first day packets. *** Please note when ordering, checks should be made payable to BVES PTA (NOT the school).* ** Want to pay by credit card? No problem – we also have an online payment option on our website! Regardless of how you pay, you can buy as many yearbooks as you'd like at the same time (no separate checks or orders necessary)! We are looking forward to another great year, appreciate your support and welcome your pictures. If you have any questions feel free to contact Melissa at melissabache@yahoo.com.

NEW FOOD! ★ NEW GAMES! ★ RIDES! ★ FRIENDS! ★ NEW FUN!

ADMIT EVERYONE

10-26-2018

10-26-2018

Step Right Up for the

BOBCAT BASH & SILENT AUCTION!

Friday, October 26, 3:30-7:30

You don't want to miss this AWESOME night, complete with confetti eggs, silly string, Bobcat Idol, snow cones, popcorn, PDO, hamburgers & hot dogs — and don't forget ZOOMBALL!

Mark your calendars!

School Tips for Parents

- Check and sign the assignment book nightly.
- Check, read and sign the Tuesday Communication folder each Tues.
- Talk with your child about what he/she learned each day.
- Check out www.greenville.k12.sc.us/bvista for news and visit teacher web pages for classroom news and updates.
- Have your child read, or be read to, for at least 15-30 min a night.
- Routinely check your child's basic arithmetic facts. Use computer flashcards or the Compass Program...they love it!
- Watch the school district's cable show – Cable Channel 99.
- Help your child practice skills used in the “real world”...count change...read the newspaper.
- Maintain close contact with your child's teachers through e-mail, notes, calls or conferences.
- Have your child make-up his/her work when they are absent.
- Show your child how you use math and English skills in your everyday life. Be sure to promote your own use of algebra skills and writing every day.
- Talk with your child about his/her successes and help him/her explore alternatives when they encounter problem situations.
- Visit <https://ed.sc.gov> for an overview of the statewide assessments.
- Remember to give yourself a pat on the back...you are the best parent your child will ever have!



Welcome International Families

BV PTA has an International Resources committee that can help you transition into the school, especially if you are new to Greenville and to Buena Vista Elementary. We are also looking for committee members that are fluent in many languages, including Hindi, French, Spanish, Arabic, German and more. If you would like to learn more, or if you have great ideas for International activities or events or would like to join our committee, please contact Margo Pons at margopons@bellsouth.net.



A Note from Birthday Celebrations

Monthly birthday celebrations are held on a Friday each month and include a dance party, games and ice cream. Invitations are sent home the Tuesday prior. Parents are welcome to attend and volunteers are appreciated. K-2nd 1:15-1:45, 3rd-5th 1:45-2:15. Our first celebration will be **Fri, Aug 31** and will include all July/August birthdays. Please watch the Newsflash for more information.

School Store Volunteers Needed

This is a great way to help, miss the morning traffic, and get to know others. It is fun and easy. You can volunteer as often as you like. Join us school mornings in the Atrium from 7:30-7:55. Contact Raquel Garrido at rquell96@gmail.com, Julie at schmidt.juliellen@gmail.com or Heather Gage at heather210@gmail.com.

Buena Vista Spirit Events

Buena Vista Skate Days

Buena Vista Skate Days at Roller Sports are back and EVERYONE is welcome! Each Skate Day has a theme so bring your friends and siblings for an afternoon of fun! The cost is \$4 per person (includes your skate rental). No drop offs are permitted and each child present must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Skate days are on the following Fridays from 3:30-5:30pm:

Sept 7 - Team Sports Day	Oct 5 - Black Out Day
Nov 9 - America Day	Dec - NONE
Jan 25 - Jersey Day	Feb 8 - Twin Day
Mar 1 - Backwards Day	Apr 26 - Beach Day

Chick-fil-A Spirit Nights

Dine out with other BV families and participate in Spirit Nights! This year we will have three Spirit Nights at Chick-fil-A on Pelham Road from 5:30-7:30pm:



September 25, 2018
January 22, 2019
March 26, 2019

Mention you are there for BVE and our school will receive a percentage of sales.

Swamp Rabbit Hockey Spirit Night

We will also team up with the Swamp Rabbits Hockey Team for a Spirit Night on **Sun, October 28th**. Join us for the game and a skate session on the ice afterward. A portion of each ticket sold to Buena Vista families and friends will come back to our school. Watch the BV Newsflash for more information.



Contact Ashley Slagel at ashjane07@gmail.com with questions on BV Spirit Events or for more information.

Where do your PTA Monies Go?

<u>Classroom Supplies</u> (\$250 per teacher, blue communication folders, paper)	\$ 17,500
<u>Curriculum/Classroom Support</u> (Artist visits, grade level programs and publications, curriculum enhancement/tech, teacher mini-grants, field day)	\$ 21,900
<u>Student Programs</u> (iREAD, Backpack Buddies, Reflections, Red Ribbon Week, 5 th Grade celebrations, student activities)	\$ 7,850
<u>Field Trips</u>	\$ 3,000
<u>Birthday Celebrations</u>	\$ 800
<u>Student Agendas/School Handbook</u>	\$ 2,200
<u>Staff Appreciation</u>	\$ 3,000
<u>Grounds</u>	\$ 4,000

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Thanks to your generous support, PTA has also been able to provide additional funds to the school beyond our budgeted items for special projects and needs.

<u>2017-18</u>	
Media Center	\$15,000
3-D Printers	\$8,000
<u>2016-17</u>	
Playground Project	\$48,000
<u>2015-16</u>	
Playground Project	\$42,000



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