



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

Fine folks of the Bates community,

dis·ci·pline

How often do we hear of a student being sent to the principal's office for "discipline"? What quasi-medieval images come to mind as we shudder at the thought of having to slink down to "the office"? Poor "discipline". Sadly, the word has been allowed to develop a bad reputation over time – a reputation it does not deserve. Please permit me to swim against the tide for a few moments. Together with you, I'd like to resurrect the original meaning of this often-used, seldom understood word.

Most broadly defined, discipline refers to systematic instruction given to a student. This meaning evolves from the word's origin, which is Latin *disciplina* "instruction", from the root *discere* "to learn," and from which *discipulus* "disciple, pupil" also derives. I love reminding myself of this, for it keeps me focused on the fact that discipline is first and foremost about teaching and learning, not pain and suffering. Do you think of "punishment" when discipline at school is mentioned? I always did. How refreshing, then, to know that any time learning is going on at Bates School (or any

other place), any occasion when the moment cries "aha!", discipline is engaged. Reading is a discipline. Math is a discipline. Art is a discipline, as are Social Studies, Music, Science, and so on.

I invite you to reflect upon the various disciplines you yourself have undertaken in life, whether they be rocket science, rock climbing, or rock-n'-roll. Furthermore, consider the staggering number of disciplines our children are now exposed to. Beyond the various content areas of school, our kids are disciples of soccer, theater, Hebrew, and taekwondo, to name a scant few. And, yes, there is the discipline of proper self-control. That's the discipline so often associated with my position, and I regard it with the utmost respect. That discipline, practiced well by all, creates the environment in which all others may thrive.

George Eliot said, "Genius at first is little more than a great capacity for receiving discipline." So true. At Bates School, we are all about giving and receiving discipline in its broadest sense so that the first, flickering flames of genius may be lit.

Bates Assemblies are Under Way!

On February 13, we will be holding the first of our monthly

assemblies. The theme of this one will be Valentine's Day and friendship. As in December, the program will feature a potpourri of presentations and performances put on by a number of our classrooms. We look forward to seeing family members of our performers in the audience to help celebrate our students' hard work!

Dog Days at Bates

I ask for your help: if you own a dog and walk him or her onto Kelly Field or the school grounds, please be extra mindful of cleaning up afterwards and keeping your furry friend under control. I fully believe that Bates dog owners are responsible, careful, and thoughtful of others. It is also true that there are students at Bates who are fearful of dogs, and that dog waste is routinely found on and around the school campus (please know that I do not assume that Bates dog owners are the ones not cleaning up!). The area around Bates is lovely, walker friendly, and well used by the entire local community. I simply ask, as your principal and the owner of an often ornery dachshund, that you maintain vigilance of your pooch while enjoying the great outdoors around Bates.

All my best,

David Jeong

mark your **CALENDAR**

February

6(F) 100th day of school

10(F) PTO Meeting; 9am
Bates Cafeteria

20(M) **NO SCHOOL**
-24(F) February Break

March

9(F) PTO meeting 9am

2(F) Bates Family Ski Trip
-4(Su) Waterville Valley

15(Th) Bates in Bloom
6:30 - 8:00pm

24(Sa) Bates Auction,
Knight Auditorium,
Babson College

A Message from the PTO Presidents

Welcome to February! We have been so lucky with the weather this year. And lately we have noticed that the days are getting just the tiniest bit longer. Before we know it, it will officially be Spring!

The Bates Auction Committee, led by Johanna Murray and Molly Cote, continues to amaze us with their dedication and enthusiasm. As many of you know, the bi-annual Auction, along with our annual Pumpkin Fair, raises a significant portion of our PTO budget. And more than that, it is traditionally one of the most enjoyable and festive social occasions of the school year in which it is held. In order for it to be a successful event, **we need help soliciting donations.** So, please contact Johanna Murray or Molly Cote (the Auction Co-chairs) one of us, or one of our VP's (Lisa Foley and Connie Burton) as soon as possible to get involved. There are lots of surprises planned for the evening so buy your tickets early. We look forward to seeing you on March 24 as we all get Wild About our Children and the Future of Bates!

In the next month or so we will be distributing information on volunteer opportunities for next year's PTO board and committees. There are so many ways to get involved, and so many different levels of time commitment, we hope that each one of you considers becoming active for the benefit of all of our children.

Thanks to all who have chipped in over the past few weeks: A special thank you to Laurie Roberts and Tiffany Zides for coordinating a fun Movie Night; thanks to Kristin Donahue for making our transition to Constant Contact a smooth one; and thanks to the 5th graders, Ms. Valley, and Mr. Leong for making the car-line work efficiently.

See you at our next PTO meeting on February 10th at 9 A.M.!

MARY COOK AND KELLI SACHER
PTO CO-PRESIDENTS



Wellesley Little League

The Wellesley School Committee is pleased to announce that its meeting agenda can now be automatically delivered to your inbox! Please visit the Town of Wellesley's *Subscribe to News* page at www.wellesleyma.gov/subscriber and follow the instructions to add your email address to the School Committee Agenda list.

You can also reach the *Subscribe to News* page by visiting the Town of Wellesley's homepage (www.wellesleyma.gov) and clicking on the *Subscribe to News* button.

Soccer

Wellesley United Soccer Club Spring 2012
Registration for Grade 1-3 players is now going on. Deadline for Grades 1-3 is Jan. 30. Online registration and program dates and times are available at www.wellesleysoccer.org under 'Registration'. Information about registration for the Kindergarten program will be posted the last week of January with a deadline of March 15. Stay tuned for more information. If questions, please email admin@wellesleysoccer.org

Registration for the Wellesley Little League Spring 2012 Baseball and Softball programs is open! [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

Eligible players include boys and girls, Kindergarten thru 8th grade, living or attending school in Wellesley. All players must have been born no earlier than 5/1/97. All interested players are invited to register – please help spread the word by forwarding this email to families new to town, or new to the program (e.g., families with kindergarteners). All registrations will be processed online through

our website

www.wellesleylittleleague.org.

Additional league information - e.g., key dates, league descriptions, clinic info - is also available on the league website.

Please register ASAP to ensure your child has a uniform at the beginning of the season. For registrations received after February, late fees will be assessed and uniforms cannot be guaranteed.

If you have any questions, please email WLL at Admin@WellesleyLittleLeague.org.

The Wellesley Parent Advisory Council (PAC) presents

Infusing Social Thinking Strategies into Every Setting of Your Child's Day
by

Pamela Ely, M.S. CCC-SLP

Monday, February 13, 2012 at 7pm, Wellesley Middle School Library

Description

The presentation will focus on the impact of language processing, executive function, and social thinking inefficiencies on navigating the academic and social world around us. The program will include tools, techniques, and strategies to improve management of the social world in all settings.

Presenter Biography

Pamela is a speech-language pathologist with

more than 16 years experience in the public schools and in clinical settings. For the past eight years, she has facilitated social skills groups dedicated to enhancing the essential skills for social communication. Pamela has a special interest in cognitive-behavioral disorders (Asperger's, High Functioning Autism, PDD-NOS, Nonverbal Learning Disability, Executive Dysfunction, Anxiety Disorder, etc.) and language based learning disabilities.

The Wellesley PAC is a district-wide, independent organization of parents and caregivers of children in Wellesley working together to enhance the education of students who learn differently

PTO Minutes

2011 – 2012 Bates PTO Minutes

Friday, January 20, 2012 @
9AM

PRESIDENTS REPORT – Kelli Sacher opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

SECRETARYS REPORT – *Motion*: Approved the November 18, 2011 minutes

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT - Connie Burton provided a Central Council update.

- Fiscal Year 2013 recommended school budget online for review @ www.wellesley.k12.ma.us. Dates for the public sessions are also posted. School Committee vote is expected on Thursday, 1/24.
- School Committee will study the current food service program. If you would like to provide feedback, please contact Wendy Paul.
- The School Committee will begin to publish a newsletter. The first will be sent via the PTO and then readers need to subscribe to it.
- MFS, a search firm, has been retained for the superintendent search.
- Two presentations were made including: English as a Second Language offered at the Wellesley Public Library which is a program geared towards parents and grandparents. Please refer new families to program. Volunteers are needed for 1:1 tutoring and to teach classes. Wellesley Renewable Energy Committee Possible financial incentive may be offered in the future.

TREASURERS REPORT The updated 2011/2012 balance sheet is available for review.

PRINCIPALS REPORT

- David provided an overview of a program sponsored by the Wellesley Hills Junior Women's Club that aligns expert Stan Davis to WPS. Davis promotes positive interactions and social awareness consultation to schools. He helps to develop a school wide behavior model and Bates will benefit from his services next school year.

- MLK Assembly was a great success – thank you to Shelia Olsen and Jessica Dormitzer.
- The purchase of Raz-Kids is a tremendous addition to instruction and curriculum. Thank you to the PTO for providing the funding.
- David and the 5th Grade Student Council are working on a project to grow the back playground area.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Family Programs** - Laurie Roberts Family Movie Night, 1/20 @ 7PM, Kung Fu Panda II will be shown. 5th grade class will be selling treats to raise funds for the Mystery Trip.
- **Communications** - Kristen Donahue
Process Changes
 1. Deadlines for the Blast – Thursdays, 8PM
 2. Font Size – 10. Please continue to use Verdana.Reminders:
 1. Please save any flyers / attachments in PDF format.
 2. Our collective goal should be to send only 3 – 5 emails from Bates / week to ensure that our emails are read. (See below for details)
 3. All school announcements should be emailed via the PTO, not via the room parents / teachers. Otherwise those of us with several kids at Bates get the same message multiple times.PTO Website

Bates website will be recreated on new a platform
- **Creative Arts** – Jessica Dormitzer Great feedback from students, faculty and parents on MLK assembly Spring all school assembly is in the works Grade level programs are proceeding as planned. The overall program is on budget.
- **Committee 21** – Jessica Dormitzer Superintendent Wong presented to FY2013 budget to School Committee on 1/19.

PTO MINUTES, CONT'D

Details are very preliminary and a short fall and subsequent override are expected.

- **Auction** - Johanna Murray
"Wild about Our Children" is the theme. Highlights include a photo booth, dj and a vintage Land Rover. All related materials will be available on-line including invite, booklet and ticket sales. . PayPal will be used for ticket sales and check out. The team is pursuing additional corporate sponsorships and donations to offset costs. Volunteers are needed the night of the event. T-shirts will be delivered in late February.

OTHER BUSINESS

Upcoming Events

- February PTO Meeting – Friday, 2/10 @ 9AM
- Bates Ski Trip – March 2nd – 4th

Meeting adjourned.



Wellesley Free Library

WELLESLEY ESL



Through a generous grant from the Fund for Wellesley, the Wellesley Free Library is coordinating an ESL learning program for people who live and work in Wellesley whose first language is not English. Program activities include English classes, conversation classes, writing classes and individual tutoring and social events. Plans for the future may include citizenship classes, and conversation class leadership training.

We are very interested in hearing from both potential students and potential volunteers. More information is available by contacting Philippa Biggers, Program Coordinator, at 781-591-1247 or at wellesleyESL@minlib.net



In conjunction with the Wellesley Free Library

Present

“The Year of the Child” a 2011-2012 educational series

Part Two

“How Food and Environment Can Affect Your Elementary School Child.”

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Wellesley Public Library

530 Washington Street

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Join us for coffee and dessert

as we present

Dr. Martha Herbert

author of: The Autism Revolution: Whole Body Strategies for Making Life All That It Can Be.

And

Ashley Bade, RD, LDN, CNSD at Newton-Wellesley Hospital.

Environmental influences can make the whole body development of your child better or worse. This presentation will cover optimal function, how to detect signs of problems across the dimensions of your child’s life, and how to improve the environment so that your child can flourish.

Dr. Herbert is a renowned pediatric neurologist and researcher and is affiliated with Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. Dr. Herbert is particularly interested in environmental influences on brain and body health and development, and things we can do to reduce problems and improve function.

Ashley Bade is a pediatric dietitian who specializes in weight management, eating disorders, feeding behaviors and non-diet approach to life-long healthy eating.

The Wellesley Cancer Prevention Project studies the relationship between cancer and the environment with the goal of reducing health risk factors for Wellesley residents and surrounding communities.

Learn more at www.wcponline.org or call us at 888-370-9626