



The Paw

SY 12-13 Volume 16
21 November 2012

"Together we can make a difference."

www.stut-esb.eu.dodea.edu

Vision: To inspire curiosity and ambition for life-long learning in a supportive environment for all students.
Mission: Provide an exemplary education that inspires and prepares all DoDEA students for success in a dynamic, global environment.
Goal #1 All students will demonstrate a proficiency in writing strategies in the English Language Arts.
Goal #2 All students will demonstrate a proficiency in communication in Mathematics.

Guidance Corner:

This week, the 5th grade classes learned about "Safe Talking in Cyberspace." We talked about why talking online is okay and fun. We discussed the importance of choosing kid friendly sites. Lastly we emphasized what constitutes private information and what questions one shouldn't answer. Our children are pretty internet savvy, but they still need you to help keep them safe!

From Common Sense Media: <http://www.commonsensemedia.org/educators/parent-media-education>

Why Internet safety matters

Keeping your kids safe requires active parental engagement and real conversations about online life. In today's world, where kids turn to the Internet for just about all of their interests, education is a parent's first line of defense in keeping children safe.

It's harder than ever for parents to keep track of what their kids are doing online. Kids today can go online from so many different sources, including video game consoles, iPhones and smart phones, and even handheld gaming devices. Young people are increasingly living their lives online, and their digital devices are some of their favorite toys and tools. Shouldn't this new play-ground be a safe and nice place? With your guidance, it can be. Teaching Internet safety in the elementary years will have lasting rewards for you and your kids.

Internet Safety Basics

Help your kids understand that they should:

- ❖ Never share their names, schools, ages, phone numbers, or addresses;
- ❖ Never send pictures to strangers;
- ❖ Keep passwords private (except to parents);
- ❖ Never open email from strangers — it may contain viruses that can harm a computer; and
- ❖ Immediately tell an adult if something mean or creepy happens.

Strategies for a responsible — and safer — online life

- ❖ Visit only age-appropriate sites. Check out the site before your kids visit it. Know what features and what content exist and make sure they're good for your kids.
- ❖ Search safely. Use safe search settings for young kids or think about applying filtering software to limit inappropriate exposure.
- ❖ Avoid strangers. Tell your kids that people aren't always who they say they are in cyberspace. Explain that if someone they don't know talks to them, they shouldn't respond but should let you know.
- ❖ Be a good cyber citizen! Remind kids that an Internet playground is still a playground and they need to play nicely. A good rule of thumb: If they wouldn't do something in real life, they shouldn't do it online. Find out how your children can report mean behavior or unkind content on their favorite sites and teach them how to do it.
- ❖ Keep the computer in a central place. So you can see what's going on.

- ❖ Establish expectations and limits about the amount of time your children spend online and what they do. Check out our family media agreement for a helpful place to start.
- ❖ View your own habits carefully. You are their role models.
- ❖ But, mostly, be involved and have fun with them! Keeping kids safe and teaching them how to use digital technology responsibly is all about staying involved. Start by showing interest in the sites they visit and the games they play and your job will be a lot easier when they start exploring these technologies more independently.

Holiday Gift Shop

Volunteers make this event possible!

We are in need of many volunteers to set-up, help students shop, to wrap presents and clean-up. If you are able to help with this event, click on the link to Volunteer Spot below (or copy & paste) to find out what is still needed. <http://vols.pt/EUvy5z>. Any time you can give is much appreciated.

We are still in need of donations of wrapping paper, gift bags, tape, tissue and any new items. Information will be coming home next week with the date your child will be shopping. Please see other flyers in this newsletter to get more information about the Holiday Gift Shop.

GradeSpeed

GradeSpeed is our on-line grade book program that allows parents to see how their students are performing at school. By accessing GradeSpeed on a regular basis you will be able to see the growth your student is making at school and avoid any "surprises" when it's report card time. GradeSpeed is available for all students in grades 4 – 8, please follow this link for access:

<https://dodea.gradespeed.net/pc/Default.aspx>

Upcoming Events

22 & 23 November	Thanksgiving Recess
24 November	School Photo Ordering Deadline
30 November – 6 December	Holiday Gift Shop
1 December	Scholastic Book Orders Due
5 December	Reflections Entries Due
6 December	Honor Roll Assembly
7 December	Professional Development Day – No School for Students
14 December	Middle School Movie Night
24 December	Begin Winter Break
7 January	Instruction Resumes from Winter Break
21 January	Martin Luther King Holiday – No School for Students
24 January	End of Second Quarter
25 January	Record Keeping Day – No School for Students

PTA News



Hump Day Lunch

Our next Hump Day Lunch is quickly approaching. This event which helps raise money to our support our PTA enrichment programs is scheduled for 12 December. Our sponsors will be our 4th and 5th grade classes. We will need volunteers to provide 8 hot dishes or soups and 8 salads and to serve this healthy and hearty luncheon to BEMS teachers and staff. Please contact our volunteer coordinator, Brenda Sullivan, at ptavolunteer@live.com to help.

Scholastic Order Deadline

The next Scholastic order deadline is 1 December. We did not receive flyers this month, but as always, you can shop online at the Scholastic website. Last month's flyer is also available in the school lobby. For instructions and teacher codes, visit the PTA website at bemspta.org.

Middle School Movie Night

December 14, BEMS Gym

Save the date, more information to come!

School Photo Order Deadline

www.internationalmemories.us

The deadline to order school photos and retakes is Sunday, 24 November. To view proofs and order, simply use the above link. User ID/Password: 2013BEMS and two numbers to designate your child's grade. For example,

2013BEMSKG for kindergarten

2013BEMS04 for fourth grade

2013BEMSMURET for retakes

Reflections

Has your child completed his/her Reflections entry yet? The deadline to enter is December 5th. Last year the PTA paid for 3 of our students and their families to go to Garmisch to receive their awards at the European Level. This year it could be your child on that trip! For more details, visit the BEMS PTA website. www.bemspta.org

Tapestry and Used Book Sales

Our book sale and tapestry event was a huge success! Many thanks to the fantastic volunteers who made it all possible. Thank you as well to all the shoppers who set record sales at the tapestry event. A special note of gratitude to our National Junior Honor Society students who sacrificed several afternoons and evenings of free time to move thousands of books around the school!



Help BEMS PTA earn more Box Tops credits just by shopping online through www.boxtops4education.com/marketplace

Over 100 retailers give **eBoxTops** to OUR School when you shop online at the Marketplace. It's simple to register. Please consider using this website when holiday shopping. It doesn't cost you anything and in the end it benefits BEMS!!

What are eBoxTops?

eBoxTops, like physical Box Tops, are worth 10¢ each for our school. However, instead of clipping these Box Tops and sending them into our school, eBoxTops are awarded electronically to BEMS school earnings at btfe.com and will be included in our school's next Box Tops check amount.

How can I earn eBoxTops?

You can earn eBoxTops by shopping through the Box Tops Marketplace or the Box Tops Reading Room. Each participating retailer at the Marketplace and the Reading Room has agreed to donate a certain number of eBoxTops for every qualifying \$10 purchase a Box Tops member makes through www.btfe.com.

My school used to earn a percentage donation from each Marketplace store. How are eBoxTops different?

There is no difference. eBoxTops are a simpler way of explaining how much each retailer will donate to your school. eBoxTops, like physical Box Tops, are worth 10¢ each for your school.

If you have questions, please contact:
bulldogpta@gmail.com subject line "Box Tops."



Holiday Gift Shop

Coming In Two Weeks

November 30th-December 6th

Find gifts for:



Brothers



Sisters



Pets



Dads



Moms



**Baby Brother
or Sister**



Teachers

Grandparents

It can be hard for the youngest members of our community to participate in the holidays. They want to be part of the gift-giving season and provide surprises of their own during this time. When living in a foreign country most of our children do not have a family member or neighbor who will take them out to do their own holiday shopping.

With the BEMS PTA Holiday Gift Shop, wonderful memories are created for the children while teaching them to budget their money and make their own decisions. Children are able to purchase gifts for family and friends in the safety and security of their own school. For many children, this may be the first time they experience the thrill of personally picking out gifts for family and friends.

Imagine the fun they will have surprising a loved one with a "secret" gift they have bought...all by themselves.

Each and every present is gift wrapped by adult volunteers so the surprise remains until it is gift-giving time in your house.

We have shopped all year to find unique things for your family. The HGS features many different gift items priced within a child's budget—from \$1.00 to \$12.00, with most gifts in the \$3-\$7 range. Items include: toys, coffee mugs, jewelry, gloves, pottery, coloring books, votives, and so much more.

They'll find something here for everyone on a child's list: Mom, Dad, Brothers, Sisters, Grandparents, Teachers, Special Friends and Pets.

We welcome you to be a part of this experience by reviewing the "gift planning sheet." It will be sent home in advance so you can help your child decide who gifts should be selected for and how much should be spent.

Classes will be assigned times to go to the gift shop. Look for notices from your teachers for which day your child will attend. If your child is absent on their assigned day the gift shop will be open after school on Tuesday, December 4th and Wednesday, December 5th until 4pm. You will need to provide transportation if you want your child to shop during this time.

We hope that all children will participate in the gift shop, but want to stress this is a voluntary event.

Questions? Would you like to volunteer to wrap or assist students?
<http://vols.pt/EUvy5z>

~BEMS PTA Holiday Gift Shop Committee

Gift prices range from \$1.00 to \$12

Gift Planning Sheet

BEMS PTA

Holiday Gift Shop

November 30 – December 6, 2012



Dear Parents,

Your child will have an opportunity to buy Holiday Presents for family members during the Holiday Gift Shop. The items will range from \$1.00 - \$12. The majority of our gifts range from \$3.00 to \$7.00. Please take the time to discuss with your child who they will be selecting gifts for. Indicate below the amount your child is to spend on each family member. This really helps us out when helping the children.

Mom \$ _____

Dad \$ _____

Brother(s) \$ _____

Sister(s) \$ _____

Pet \$ _____

Teacher/Grandparent/Other \$ _____

My child is allowed to buy a gift for themselves. Please initial _____ They can spend \$ _____.

My child is NOT allowed to buy a gift for themselves. Please initial _____

Special Instructions for us to help your child when selecting gifts:

Please have your child bring this flyer and money in an envelope or baggie on the day they will shop.

*We will stay open late on Tuesday & Wednesday until 4:00 pm for after school shopping.

*If you send in Euro we use a 1 -1 exchange rate.

***Please note we are still looking for volunteers to help with this event. If you could help please look in "the Paw" or go to:

<http://vols.pt/EUvy5z> and sign in on volunteer spot.