

Berkshire Country Day School

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Dear New BCD Families,

Welcome to Berkshire Country Day School from the Parents' Association! We are glad you are part of this community and are looking forward to getting to know you and becoming friends. The "PA" performs important roles for our school, from serving as Classroom Parents (acting as liaisons between the homeroom teachers and families), to helping to organize, cook, and serve at Thanksgiving Soup.

Of course, so many of the things we talk about seem to have their own language. Over the years, we've had new parents ask about the meaning of certain events, how they work, and what these acronyms stand for. The PA hopes that the following "BCD Glossary" will explain some of the things you may see on the calendar or hear about from other parents.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact anyone in the Parents' Association, your class parents, or any other parent. Even the "big kids" are great at answering BCD trivia! There is also a page on the BCD website called Life/BCD Traditions that gives a more thorough explanation of some of these events.

PA - Parents' Association. The PA is made up of parents and welcome to all. This dedicated group of volunteers organizes parent-driven events, helps with "school house" events, and enriches the school experience for faculty, students, and families. Meetings are held once a month.

Lunch Bunch - Lunch Bunch is a monthly event when one or two families provide a special hot lunch or fun treat to the students in their child's class. The activity is organized by the class parents, and they provide the details for how it will work in that class. It's a great way to get to know the other kids in the class, and it gives you a peek into what their day looks like.

Pizza Friday - Once a month there is an opportunity to have pizza for lunch at school. You sign up and pay at the beginning of the school year and then 9th grade "Pizza Fairies" deliver pizza and juice to the classrooms. **This is a fundraiser that helps defray the cost of school trips.

Skizza Friday - This is when Pizza Friday happens on the same day as skiing. The kids think this is an incredibly special event and call it Skizza Friday.

Ski Friday - For eight Fridays in the winter, the school day ends early and kids go skiing in the afternoon. It is part of the BCD culture, a tradition that began when the school opened its doors in 1946. You will receive more information from school about it in December. Kids ski at either Bousquet or Butternut.

High Spirits - This adult-only, evening event happens in the first few weeks of school (this year on Friday, 9/15). It's a cocktail party that gives parents and faculty a chance to get to know each other and reconnect at the beginning of the year.

Grandparents' and Grand Friends' Day - Grandparents and special friends visit the school to see the kids in their classrooms and to learn about what a special place BCD is. This year, it is on Friday, October 6. We need lots of parent volunteers to bake, bring flowers, take photographs, and help guests get around campus.

Thanksgiving Soup - This is one of the most special events at BCD. The school gathers together on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving to give our own thanks for all that we have. Fitzpatrick Hall is transformed from a gym into a magical space. Each child brings a few ingredients on Monday of that week, and a team of talented parents gathers together the day before to make the soup. This is a fun event to volunteer for and we always need all the hands we can get. From chopping onions to serving soup, this is a terrific way to get to know other parents and volunteering is the only ticket into the event!

Holiday Gift Drive - Each year we select a local organization to support, and BCD families who wish to participate can purchase gifts for area children and families in need. We have help from our Upper School Student Council.

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Alaska Day - Once a year, usually in late February/early March, our community celebrates wintertime through the culture and customs of Alaska. This was started by a former student, Kevin Hirt '06, and is now a way for us to honor his memory.

Let's Talk About - The PA organizes discussions that are led by a parent with expertise or interest in a topic, and everyone is invited to participate. These are usually held in the library right after drop off. Topics have ranged from preparing healthy lunches, to how to talk to your kids about sex, to getting the most out of parent-teacher conferences. Anyone can contribute ideas or lead discussions!

Salon Series - This is an evening event for adults in the BCD community and presented by people in our community. We have a network of talented parents who will share their knowledge on a topic.

Speaker Series - BCD annually hosts a renowned speaker to present on a topic related to education and child development. This event is held on the BCD campus and is open to the larger community. Former speakers have included Edward Hallowell, author of *Driven to Distraction*, and Mary Pope Osbourne, author of the *Magic Tree House* series.

Sports Swap - Families swap and share sports equipment that is no longer being used. You can pick up a gently used pair of cleats or drop off a soccer ball.

Faculty & Staff Appreciation Week - We spend a week honoring our faculty and staff and the amazing work they do with special events all week.

Fun and Field Day - This day is filled with water slides and snow cones, games and friendly competition.

On the calendar you will see **LS** (Lower School), **MS** (Middle School), and **US** (Upper School).

We hope this helps! If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

Best,

Natacha Dockery Livak and Andrea Gerber (PA Co-Chairs)

Contact us with questions through the BCD administration: admissions@berkshirecountryday.org

Our Parents' Association meetings are held once a month right after drop off at 8:15am in the Hosokawa Distance Learning Lab of the Kevin Hirt Library and Learning Commons.

Dates for the 2017/18 school year PA Meetings are:

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| ➤ Friday, September 15, 2017 | ➤ Friday, January 12, 2018 | ➤ Friday, May 4, 2018 |
| ➤ Friday, October 13, 2017 | ➤ Friday, February 9, 2018 | ➤ Friday, June 1, 2018 |
| ➤ Friday, November 17, 2017 | ➤ Friday, March 2, 2018 | |
| ➤ Friday, December 1, 2017 | ➤ Friday, April 6, 2018 | |

Please join us!