

# The Bloomin' News

*Serving as the voice of the  
BAS PTA.*



December 2011

## Happy Holidays



## Calendar of Events

**December 1<sup>st</sup> Aids Awareness Day**

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> **UPDATED** Spirit Day & Pretzel Sale**

**December 15<sup>th</sup> Holiday Boutique**

**December 16<sup>th</sup> Yoga w/ Eileen TBA**

**December 23<sup>rd</sup> Single Session**

**December 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> WINTER BREAK**

**January 13<sup>th</sup> Single Session**

**January 16<sup>th</sup> NO SCHOOL**

**January 16<sup>th</sup> Ice Skating 10am-12pm at the Roosevelt Family Ice Rink in Edison**

**January 19<sup>th</sup> Yoga w/ Eileen TBA**

**January 25<sup>th</sup> PTA Meeting 7:30 PM BAS Gym**

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# Principal's Message

*Regina Gavin  
BAS Principal*

## December 2011

Given the number of days school closed due to weather, conferences and the holiday, this has been a most unusual school year so far. We look forward to December as the beginning of uninterrupted instructional time for the rest of the school year (and I bet you do, too!).

Our partnership with **Seton Hall University** began again in fall and concludes this month. Teachers mentored 16 interns who spent each Wednesday in the classrooms observing lessons, assisting students and implementing a lesson under their teacher's supervision. Professional development for our teachers is imbedded in the teaching clinics, in which teachers observe each other and debrief afterwards to discuss the effectiveness of the lesson based on the level of understanding students demonstrated.

Slow but steady progress on painting the trim in the hall continues as part of the **Beautification Committee's** plan. Kudos on their efforts inside and on the fall decorations! Plans for additional shrubs along the Bloomingdale Avenue side of the building are in the works as a spring project. **Compliments of the Board of Education** new benches for the playground have been purchased and will be installed before spring.

The student body will be treated to the **Holiday Program** by the **Grade 2 Chorus** on Monday, Dec. 5, 2:00 PM. The Chorus, under the direction of Miss McDonald, will give a rehearsal performance.

Looking ahead to the new year please note the following dates:

Jan. 3	Dr. Carrick's Open Agenda Meeting (Library)
Jan.13	Single Session
Jan. 16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Schools Closed
Jan. 23 – Feb. 2	Terra Nova Standardized Test Administration for Grade 2 students

The staff and I continue to be grateful for your support and wish you peace, joy, happiness and health, now and throughout the coming year.

Regina Gavin

# PTA President's Message

*Amy Icklan*



December is here and the holidays are upon us! I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

We would like to **THANK** Marci Fernandez and the many many volunteers for organizing **Trick or Trunk** this year. This is an event that requires so much and it went off without a hitch!

**THANK YOU** to everyone who donated for the **Veteran's Day Collection**.

Our **BAS Bake Sale** was a huge success **THANKS** to Aimee Avella. We made **\$540.00** this year even without voters! Thank you to all of you who baked and donated your time for the bake sale.

**THANK YOU** to Karen McIntyre for organizing the **Original Arts fundraiser**. We made just under \$300.

**THANK YOU** to Ellen Ramirez for organizing **AIDS Awareness Day ribbons!**

**Box Tops** submission was \$340 this fall. **THANK YOU** to Maureen Holleran. The next submission is in February.

## Upcoming Events....

- Dec. 15th Holiday Boutique. If you are considering donating, adult male and adult female gifts are needed. All items will be sold to children for \$1 and we want to make sure everyone has the opportunity to shop. Also, if you would like the chairs to shop for you, you can send in a monetary donation marked "Holiday Boutique". Collection deadlines are Dec 5th. Thank you in advance.
- Yoga with Eileen will be Dec 16th 9am in the Cranford Community Center. \$8/Person.
- Spirit Day & Pretzel Sale will be Dec 22nd.
- Ice Skating will be Jan 16th 10am-12pm at the Roosevelt Family Ice Rink in Edison.
- Movie Afternoon will be "The Lorax" (1<sup>st</sup> week in March)

## Ongoing Events....

- **Bloomin' News:** If you have something for the BN, please submit to Lisa by the 15th of each month to ltrotta@gmail.com. Thank you Lisa for your efforts!!!! To register for the BN, please go to [www.cranfordschools.org](http://www.cranfordschools.org) and click "District Information", then "School Communications" then to "sign-up to receive or change emails".
- **Magnets:** They are a great way to show bas pride! They are still available.
- **Membership:** We encourage everyone to join the PTA. Membership dues help to support so many of our events all year. We are so close to 100% participation. If you still haven't joined, please consider it.

PTA Meeting Our next meeting is Jan. 25th at 7:30pm in the gym.



## PTA Board

**Amy Icklan, President:**

325-6286

[icklan@gmail.com](mailto:icklan@gmail.com)

**Jen Murray, Vice Pres.:**

276-1180

[jenniferrmurray@aol.com](mailto:jenniferrmurray@aol.com)

**Kim Lopes, 2nd V. Pres:**

709-2095

[jklopes@comcast.net](mailto:jklopes@comcast.net)

**Jen Mooney, Treasurer:**

309-1676

[moon1998@verizon.net](mailto:moon1998@verizon.net)

**Michelle Padovano, Corresponding Secretary**

272-2448

[mpadovano12@verizon.net](mailto:mpadovano12@verizon.net)

**Eileen Michie, Recording Secretary**

276-7117

[michieej@aim.com](mailto:michieej@aim.com)

## Spirit Day & Pretzel Sale December 23<sup>rd</sup>

Wear your **Blue & Gold!**



## Help Wanted

A committee is being formed consisting of parents and teachers interested in changing the lunch vendor in the Cranford School District.

Anyone interested in joining a committee for healthy eating in the Cranford School District, kindly contact Theresa Snover at: [theresa3212002@yahoo.com](mailto:theresa3212002@yahoo.com).

We will be meeting soon to discuss the process needed for an upcoming bid for a new school food vendor. We welcome any suggestions for new vendors.

## Box Tops

To date we have \$230 worth of boxtops.

Collection for Box Tops is year round....so keep them coming!  
Thanks  
Maureen Holleran

## Upcoming Events

### BAS Snowman Gift Drive



Hello BAS families

Regardless of what this crazy weather did to our lovely town of Cranford, the holidays are still coming! Once again, we are working with the **Streetlight Mission** in

Elizabeth to provide gifts this holiday season to children less fortunate than our own. The Mission is a very reputable organization and they try to help people in any way they can.

The **Snowman Gift Drive** is on again! Please help put a smile on a child's face.

Simply choose a snowman tag of your choice and leave your name and phone # behind the tag on the display. Return all unwrapped gifts in a bag with the original snowman tag attached, to the main office. All gifts are due by

**December 9th.** Instructions will be posted on the display boards as well.

The tags are hanging on a display outside the main office...

If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail or call, Karen Laferrera at [kayceehunt@aol.com](mailto:kayceehunt@aol.com) or (908) 325-6363

Please consider helping out with this cause. The gifts you provide may be the only ones some of the children will receive this holiday season! We thank you for your continued support!



## Holiday Boutique

The Holiday Boutique is scheduled for **Thursday December 15th.** We are still accepting gift/monetary donations till Monday December 5th. Look for more information about the big shopping day in your child's backpack the week of the 13th. Thank you to all that have made donations. This event couldn't happen without all your help.

## AIDS Awareness Day Thursday, December 1, 2011

World AIDS Day is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV.

# Staying Healthy During Cold and Flu Season

*Sherryl Lazo, RN  
School Nurse*



Now that it is December and the weather is getting much colder we tend to stay indoors more and people tend to catch colds and other viruses. The cold and flu season can begin as early as October and end sometime in April. Though there is no way to cure the common cold or the flu, there are things we can do to prevent them and stay healthy.

## **Keeping the germs away**

The most important thing you can do to keep from getting sick is to wash your hands. The most common and frequent way to catch a cold is by rubbing your nose or eyes. To protect against infection wash your hands frequently. Your hands pick up germs from other people as well as from contaminated surfaces. Washing your hands and keeping them clean will prevent you from infecting yourself with germs. For best results use warm water, soap and wash for several minutes.

## **Boost your immune system**

Healthy bodies have an easier time fighting off infection. To stay healthy and boost your immune system:

- Get plenty of rest
- Eat a well balanced diet
- Exercise regularly
- Decrease stress
- Cut back on unhealthy habits, such as smoking and over consuming alcohol.

Studies have shown that a 30 minute session of moderate exercise produces positive effects on the immune system. Over time this means catching less upper respiratory infections and colds.

## **Foods that heal**

Warm beverages and chicken soup increase the flow of nasal secretions, helping to alleviate cold symptoms. But the best way to get the daily requirements of essential vitamins and minerals is to eat a well balanced diet that contains a wide variety of foods from the food pyramid guide.

Getting sick is a part of life. If you do catch a cold or the flu, the following advice still holds true.

# Reflections “Diversity Means”

BAS wants to congratulate **Isabella DeStefano** and **Rachel Westervelt** for their entries in the Reflections Art Program. Their submissions will be representing **BAS** at the county level of the competition!



*Isabella DeStefano*



*Rachel Westervelt*

*Continued from Sherryl Lazo, RN School Nurse*

To get better while you are sick:

Get plenty of rest

Drink lots of fluids

Use a humidifier to moisten mucous membranes.

When you are sick, stay home to avoid infecting others. If you do go out and need to cough or sneeze, use a tissue or cough or sneeze into your sleeve or upper arm, not your hand, as you use your hands for touching objects that others may use.

This information is **NOT** a substitute for a physician's advice. If you truly feel awful it is always wise to contact your physician.

## Veteran's Day

Thank you to all of our BAS families for your generosity during our **Veterans Day collection**. Your donations were greatly appreciated by **Operation Shoebox NJ** and will be even more so by our troops overseas.

## Bake Sale

The annual **BAS Bake Sale** was a success! Our total was **\$560.00** and the PTA would like to thank all those who volunteered to bake and to those who volunteered their time or made donations.

Thanks,  
Aimee Avella



## BAS Trick or Trunk, a Spooktacular good time!

The weather was nice, there were witches, ninjas and princesses everywhere and the “**BAS Laboratory**” was filled with Halloween delight! The BAS Trick or Trunk was a great night for all and a fun way to start off the Halloween celebrations. I hope everyone enjoyed the wonderfully decorated cars, dancing and delicious treats.

### BAS T-Shirts

Thank you to **Amy Robinson** and **Michelle Howlett** for their work in distributing our BAS t-shirts...they look great!

### Directory

Thank you to Pam Nigro for all her work in putting together the BAS Directory!

### Spirit Wear

A huge thanks to Teresa Murray for all her work on Spirit Wear.

Thanks so much to the following **BAS families** who took the time to creatively decorate their vehicles and hand out treats throughout the night: Cuddihy family, Usinowicz family, Lang family, O'Keefe family, Grell family, Hooey family, Tully/Macchi family, Guydan family, Murray family, Icklan family, Turnamian family, De Stefano family, Seda family, Pollack family, Kachoojian family, O'Donnell family, Hunt family, Bobbitt family, and Golding family. Without continued commitment and support of our BAS families, Trick or Trunk could not be such a fun and successful event.

A **HUGE** thank you to the Trick or Trunk co-chairs: **Kim Lopes**, **Jenn Mooney** and **Soyon Bongiovanni** for all their time organizing and executing this wonderful event. Also, I would like to thank all the BAS parents who helped set up for the event including Cynthia Arch, Jessica Waters, Jennifer Murray, Eileen Michie, Susan Shaw, Kristin Toth, Karen McIntyre, Cathleen Farago, Kerry Rokicki, Blanca Colombrita and Judy Scholz. There was a lot of work to be done and it was great to have so many volunteers!

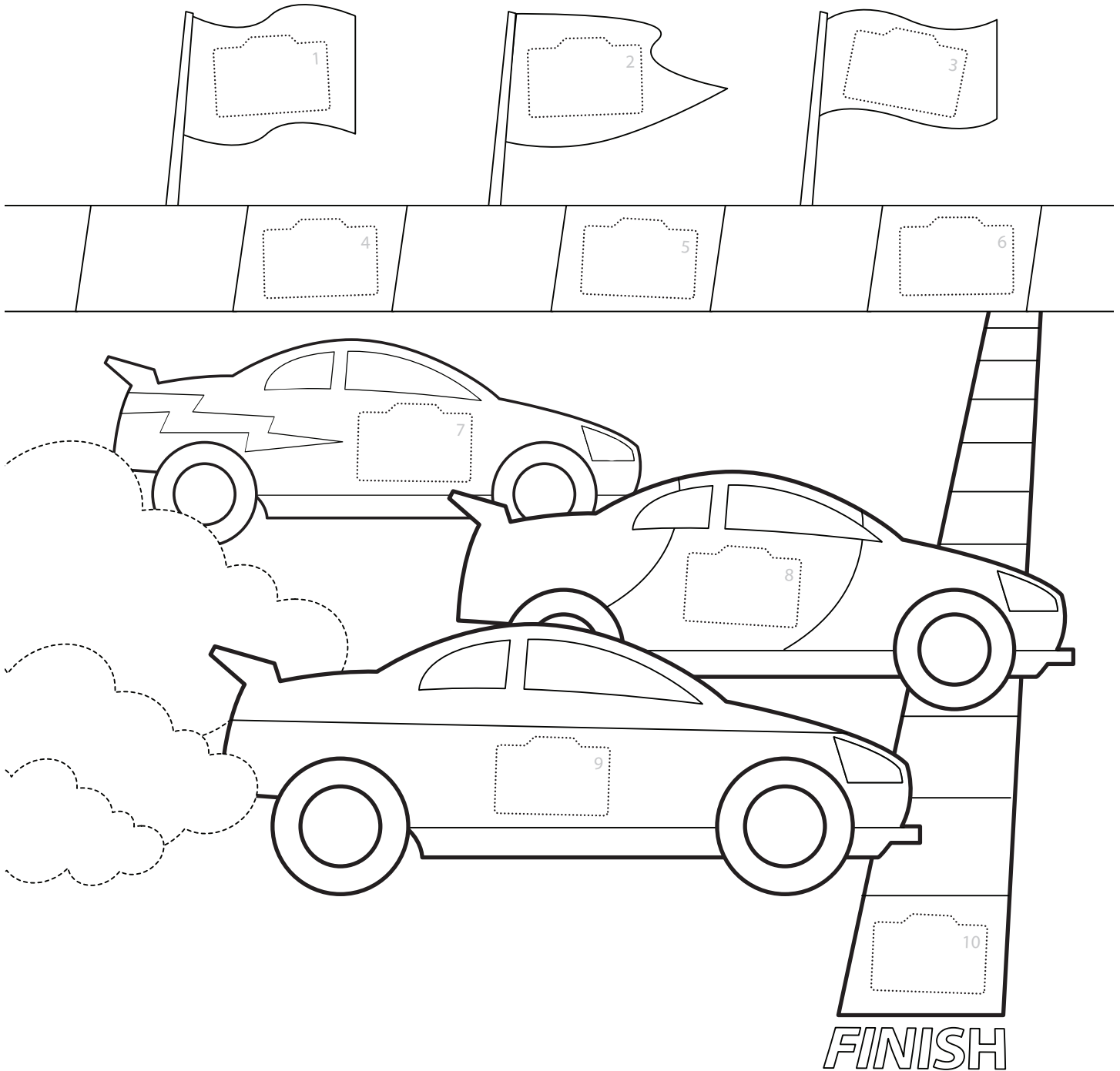
A special Thank you to **Mrs. Gavin**, **Mr. Rich** and **Mr. Mark** for their continued support and to all BAS families who donated the scrumptious treats and waters.

Trick or Trunk was a fun filled night and it was nice to see so many students and their families enjoying the festivities and supporting this BAS tradition.

Marci Fernandez



**It's a race!** Fill this sheet with Box Tops and be the first to cross the finish line.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for helping! Every Box Top you collect is worth 10¢ for your school.  
For more collection worksheets and projects, go to [www.boxtops4education.com/activitycenter](http://www.boxtops4education.com/activitycenter)

# BAS MAGNETS

are available!!!



\$7.00 cash or check to: BAS PTA

1. Fill out below
2. Send in your child's backpack in envelope marked BAS Magnet
3. Magnet will be sent home with your child

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\_\_\_\_\_ # of Magnets @ \$7.00 each

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Bloomin' News is Paperless!

In an effort to continue being Earth friendly, the Bloomin' News is only available via email.

If you do not receive the "BN" via email please log onto:

<http://www.cranfordschools.org>

Click on District Information, School Communications and Sign up to receive.



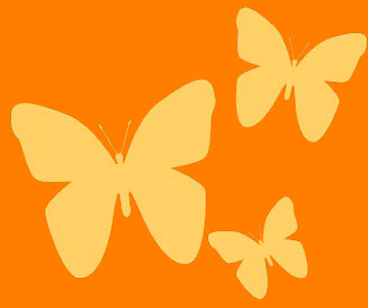
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Bloomingdale Ave School  
200 Bloomingdale Ave.  
Cranford, NJ 07016

<http://cranfordschools.org/bas>



## ACTE at BAS

Always Consider The Earth



Pack a WASTE FREE lunch with...

- reusable containers
- washable napkins
- fresh fruit

Support the ring recycling process to help reduce waste and protect our planet!



Send your rings to school for our collection tree that stands near the main office.

For the past four years, members of the BAS community have collected a few thousand drink ring carriers for recycling! Well done!

Go Green!  
Danielle Speranza  
BAS Environmental Liaison

# NO

# IDLING ZONE



Please remember  
BAS is a NO IDLING ZONE!

Be sure to turn your engines off  
when dropping off or  
waiting at pick-up.