



# The ABC's of Bethel Elementary

## A

Administrative Team: Nerissa Lewis (Principal), Carol Lynn McCuen (Administrative Assistant K5-2nd), Susan Skelton (Asst. Principal 3rd-5th), and Kim Brice (Instructional Coach).

## B

Bethel Bash: One of Bethel's biggest fundraisers, the Bethel Bash is a carnival held annually in the spring. Those who attend can play games, ride rides, eat dinner, and shop the vendor booths and bake sale tables. Tickets and t-shirts will be sold several weeks prior to the event. Volunteers will be needed to make the event a success. Information will come home in Friday folders.

Bethel Bulletin: Quarterly newsletter with important articles and information for all parents and students. The 1<sup>st</sup> Bethel Bulletin is mailed to homes in early August. This is a great reminder of dates and events.

Book Fair: Scholastic book fairs are held twice a year at the school, once in the fall and another in the spring. Students will have an opportunity to shop the book fair with their class. There is also a family night available to allow you to shop with your child.

Boosterthon Fun Run: This is PTA's fitness and character building event that raises funds for our school. Students obtain pledges from family and friends, and then they run/walk laps during the Boosterthon event in September. It's a lot of fun for the children, and all students receive a free Boosterthon t-shirt!

Box Tops: Tabs on everyday grocery items that raise money for our PTA. Each Box Top represents \$.10. Cut out your Box Tops and send them in with your child to school. Box Tops earn thousands of dollars each year for our school.

Bus Loop: Where buses drop off and pick up students that ride the bus to and/or from school. It is located on the far side of the school, beside the gym and near the kindergarten hall. No parking is allowed in the bus loop.

## C

Calendar: The school calendar is posted on the Bethel website. You will see a month by month calendar with everything posted – school holidays, meetings, and special events.

Calendar News: A monthly newsletter and calendar that lists important dates and information for the month at Bethel. This can be emailed or sent in paper form. The school saves money on copying costs when we email it to you.

Cardinal: The cardinal is Bethel's mascot.

Chorus: The Cardinal Chorus is comprised of fourth and fifth grade students selected through auditions in the spring. New students may audition in the fall. The chorus meets weekly before school on Thursdays to rehearse, and they perform several times throughout the year at special functions.

Class Parties: Two class parties are held each year, one before winter break and one for Valentine's Day. Parties are organized by room parents and teachers. Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments. Parents are encouraged to send healthy treats for class parties. Please contact your class room parent to participate.

Class T-shirts: Each class has its own t-shirt. These shirts should be worn on field trips, field day, picnic day, and designated spirit days. Watch the school calendar for dates.

Clubs: All third through fifth grade students participate in clubs once a month during the school day (1:30-2:15). Clubs are led by the teachers, and students are asked to rank their preferences on a form that will come home in August/September. Some of our clubs include fitness, gardening, photography, science, technology, etc.

Communication: There are many ways to stay in communication with the school and your child's teacher. Teachers send home a weekly newsletter in the Friday Folder or by email. Other valuable tools for learning what is going on at Bethel: Bethel Bulletin, Calendar News, Parent Portal, eNews, Bethel's Facebook page, and the school website.

Compass Learning: A web-based computer program that is individualized based on students' MAP scores. This can be accessed from school and home, and it can boost student achievement when utilized weekly.

Continuous Quality Improvement: Framework for our school that teaches students the importance of responsibility, goal setting, and quality work.

## D

Dances: School dances are offered for students and families to attend in the teacher parking lot from 6-8pm. Music is provided by a DJ and refreshments are sold. Dates are posted on the school calendar. Also, back by popular demand...the Father/Daughter Dance!

## E

Extended Day Program: After-School program that operates at Bethel from 2:30-6:00 pm on school days only. The program offers snacks, homework time, recreation, arts and crafts, and computers. Contact our director, Janice Broyles, for more information.

## F

Fundraisers: Opportunities for the PTA to earn money for the betterment of the school. Some of our fundraisers are Boosterthon Fun Run, Gingerbread Shop, and Bethel Bash. Thank you for supporting our PTA!

## G

Gingerbread Shop: A holiday shop that allows students to purchase gifts for their loved ones. Students will have the opportunity to shop with their class (times will be announced in December). Items range in price from \$.50 to \$10.00. Items purchased will also be gift wrapped for free. Volunteers will be needed to help students shop and to gift wrap.

Grocery Cards: Programs offered by Bi-Lo and Publix that donate a percentage of money spent at the grocery stores back to Bethel. You must present your card at the register for scanning when grocery shopping. Publix cards are printed with the Bethel name and are automatically renewed. Bi Lo's card must be renewed yearly after June with a Booster enrollment form that is included in the Meet the Teacher night packets and can be accessed via the Bethel website. These programs are open to anyone so ask grandparents, friends, and neighbors to help Bethel.

## I

Intermediate Multiage (IMA): This is a classroom where 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders learn together. There is an application process for this classroom starting in March, and interested parents are allowed to observe the class during the school day.

## J

Jr. Beta Club: Club open to all 5th graders who demonstrate outstanding academic performance (all A's/B's in 4th grade) and exemplary character. The club performs community service projects for the school and local area.

## K

K-2 Carpool Line: Carpool pick-up / drop-off for kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. Older children may be dropped off and picked up here if they have younger siblings. It is located on the side of the school next to the bus loop and can be accessed from Balcome Road.

## L

Lunch Account: Account established for each student for lunch purchases. Parents may send in cash or checks (made payable to Bethel) on Mondays in a labeled envelope to add to the account or payments may be made on-line at [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com).

**Lunch and Learn:** Parenting workshops offered once a month from 12:00-1:00 pm on different topics.

**Lunch Relief:** When a classroom parent volunteer watches over the class during lunchtime allowing the teacher a break. Lunch relief is allowed twice a week maximum. The schedule is created by the class room parent. Lunch relief training must be attended prior to volunteering. Training is offered at both Volunteer Orientation meetings at the beginning of the year. Contact your class room parent to volunteer.

## **M**

**MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) Testing:** A computerized assessment given in September, December, and March to all 2nd through 5th graders (and selected 1st graders). Results are sent to parents as soon as available.

## **O**

**Open House:** Following a general PTA meeting, parents attend group sessions with their child's teacher in early September. This is an opportunity for the teacher to give parents classroom information and to answer any questions. There are two sessions offered to account for multiple children.

## **P**

**Palmetto's Finest:** Bethel is the proud recipient of the Carolina First Palmetto's Finest Award. This award is given to two elementary, one middle, and one high school annually in SC. The award recognizes outstanding schools in our state and is sponsored by the SC Association of School Administrators (SCASA).

**Primary Multiage (PMA):** This is a classroom where 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders learn together. There is an application process for this classroom starting in March, and interested parents are allowed to observe the class during the school day.

**PTA: Parent Teacher Association:** A national group that works collectively to help children, families and schools by contributing their time and skills. Bethel Elementary is a member of the PTA. Individual memberships can be purchased for \$5. Each family is encouraged to purchase at least two memberships. Bethel strives for 100% PTA membership participation each year!

**PTA Board:** Group of volunteers that accept leadership positions in the PTA at Bethel. Positions are open to all that are interested. A list of positions and responsibilities are listed on the Bethel website under the PTA section. The PTA board meets monthly. All suggestions are welcome in the suggestion box in the PTA room.

**PTA General Membership Meetings:** Meetings for parents and teachers to keep informed about PTA events. There are 6 meetings held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 6:30pm in the cafeteria. Everyone is welcome to attend!

**PTA Room:** Located on the first floor, near the gym, this room is a hub for all things volunteer related.

## **R**

**Reflections:** An annual arts related competition sponsored by the national PTA. Students can submit entries in photography, literature, music composition, dance choreography, film production, and visual arts based on the current year's theme. Information will be sent home starting in late August/early September. Winners will be recognized at the school, district, state, and national levels.

**Room Parent:** Parent volunteer(s) that coordinates the needs of their child's classroom between the teacher and the parents. The room parent organizes the volunteer schedule for lunch relief, classroom help, class parties, and other classroom events / projects.

**Running Club:** Students in grades 2-5 are eligible to participate in our Wednesday morning running club. Students meet before school at 7:15 AM to run on the school track behind the school. Parents are also welcome to join the group!

## S

SC Curriculum Standards: Grade level concepts that students should learn each year. These can be accessed on the Bethel website by clicking on 'Parents' and 'Info and Forms.'

School Improvement Council (SIC): Group of parents, staff, and community members that meet monthly to oversee school improvement. Meetings are open to the public.

School Store: It opens each Friday from 7:30-7:55 AM. Students can purchase school supplies and light snacks. It is located in the hallway behind the office. Parent volunteers are needed to run the store.

Science Fair: The science fair is open to all students and held in the spring. More information will come home from your child's teacher in Friday folders.

Spirit Days: School-wide spirit days are held monthly. The dates are listed on the school calendar. Students and staff enjoy dressing up for special days such as Book Character Day, Twin Day, College/Team Day, etc.

Spirit Nights: PTA sponsors Spirit Nights at several local restaurants (Chick-fil-A, Firehouse Subs, Zaxby's, and Twisted Cup) throughout the year. Dates will be included on school newsletters. When our families purchase meals on Spirit Nights, Bethel PTA earns a percentage of the sales.

Spirit Wear: Products sold throughout the year featuring Bethel Elementary. These items can range from car magnets to drink holders, to T-shirts and sweat shirts. Ordering information will be sent home in Friday folders.

Staff Appreciation Week: A week long celebration in March in which the PTA and parents recognize the teachers and staff for all their hard work. The week ends with a luncheon on Friday for the entire staff.

4 Star Drop-Off: A carpool line in the front of the school designated for those carpooling four or more Bethel students. This carpool line is only offered for morning drop-off. You must sign-up for a 4 Star pass at Meet the Teacher or in the front office.

Student Council: Students are elected by their peers to promote school improvement and they meet monthly after school.

Student Handbook: Includes school policies and procedures. It's included in student agendas and posted on the website.

Sunshine Math: A math enrichment program done with the help of a classroom parent volunteer. It offers students the opportunity to challenge themselves in all types of math concepts by providing additional learning activities.

## V

Visitor Parking: Parking spaces located near the front office and in the teacher parking lot. Please do not park in the fire lane, in the neighborhood across the street, or in No Parking zones. All visitors must sign in at the front desk.

Volunteer Form: PTA form sent home in Meet the Teacher packets that PTA uses to compile our volunteer lists. Different events are listed for volunteers to sign up for activities that fit their interest and schedule.

Volunteer Orientation: PTA meeting held to inform parents of volunteer opportunities at Bethel and to answer any questions from parents. Lunch relief training will also occur during the meeting. Two meetings will be offered. Volunteers need only attend one meeting.

## W

Website: [www.greenville.k12.sc.us/bethel](http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/bethel) Bethel's website where parents can find teacher information, class schedules, PTA information, links to Bethel Bulletin and Calendar News as well as other important information.

Workroom: Located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor on the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade hallway. Die cuts and laminating machines can be used by teachers and classroom volunteers for school purposes.