

# Blooming Grove Academy Newsletter

December Newsletter  
2009



## Contents

Director's News	1
SIT Conference	2
Barnes and Noble Day	2
Blooming Bucks Winner	2
New Half Day Pick up	2
Festival of Trees Trip	3
MatheMagic Trip	3
Teachers Talking	3
Box Tops	4
School Closings	4

## From the Director, Peg Hayden

It is hard for me to believe that we are so quickly approaching the holiday season. Although we are small in number this year, we are mighty in our appreciation of the gifts we have and the ability to share them with each other every day.

I appreciate . . .

- Dedicated teachers that come each day eager to serve their children
- Children who arrive each day enthusiastic about what they might learn and accomplish
- Parents who faithfully entrust the welfare of their children in our care
- Administrative staff that devote tireless hours, sometimes outside the workday, to make sure the business of BGA is tended to
- Volunteers who give their time and effort in a wide variety of ways, especially our board of directors
- Our college students who come to us for guidance and direction and a desire to enter the teaching profession
- To our building owners who offer a space for us to provide a quality educational program for our students

We are very fortunate and we know it. We have the opportunity each day to live out the vision of Alfred Adler and Jane Nelson (positive discipline), as well as our founders, Al and Claudia Milliren, in a way that prepares children academically, socially and creatively to become good citizens and contributing members of society. We accept the challenges and are blessed by the outcomes.

We appreciate the many expectations

that parents have on their shoulders on a daily basis. You are truly the experts at multi-tasking. Our hope to keep you informed on a regular basis through classroom newsletters and the monthly "What's Blooming". We need to know the best way of getting vital information to you via the monthly newsletter.

The decision was made last year to begin sending the newsletter via email. But we have noticed many parents comment on being unaware of events or calendar items and wonder if you would prefer to receive this information in a hard copy form sent home with your child. Just as a test to see how many people are reading this article, I am going to ask that you send me a quick email so that I can tally the responses. We want everyone to be informed but want to offer the information in a way that is most likely to be viewed. So here goes! My email address is [director@bgakids.net](mailto:director@bgakids.net). Please let me know you read this article and how you would prefer to receive it in the future. Thanks for your help!!!





## SIT Conference

The tenth SIT (Students Involved with Technology) conference hosted by the Bloomington Normal Education Alliance will take place on February 20, 2010 on the Heartland Community College Campus. It is a one-day technology conference for students in grades 3-12. The presenters and attendees are all students! BGA students have made presentations in the past, singly and in groups. The topic could be anything, from Guitar Hero to robotics to solar technology to Internet applications (this is not a Science Fair; think of it as a simple technology-themed Learning Fair with peer-taught seminars), and there are many prizes to be won.

Having attended a few myself, as a parent and a volunteer, I can attest that it is going to be a fun-filled day for both parents and students (students need not be accompanied by parents all day). Students who attend need not present anything: they can just choose topics that interest them and wander between sessions and classrooms. Why don't we start thinking about projects?

The deadline for registration (presenters, attendees, and volunteers) is January 29, 2010. Please visit the website [info@sitconference.org](mailto:info@sitconference.org) for more information; to see what was done during the past conferences, and to register.

Fusun Akman

- parent of middle school student, Devin

*"Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand."*  
Chinese proverb

## New Half Day Pick up

All half day classes will now be dismissed at 11:30. This will allow more time for learning in the Early Learner I classes and an easier pick up for those who carpool with half day Early Learner II students. Please be prompt when picking up your children from our morning half-day program. **Pickup must be no later than 11:40 AM.** We understand that emergencies may arise and may keep you from being on time; however, making alternate accommodations ahead of time would be appreciated. BGA does not have adequate staff to care for your children past that time so you will be billed.

## Barnes and Noble Fundraiser

Barnes & Noble Day was held on November 7<sup>th</sup>. We had a great turnout of shoppers and volunteers. Aside from having teachers reading books, we also had performances from most of our classes!

We are pleased to report that we earned almost **\$400.00** from this event. When you factor in the proceeds from the **many** Barnes & Noble gift cards that were purchased by our families through Blooming Bucks, it truly is a worthwhile event!

## Blooming Bucks Winner

Congratulations to all our Blooming Bucks winners!

August: Khusro family  
September: Panda family  
October: Halperin-Pierce family  
November: Simmons family

The Blooming Bucks/Script gift card program is so important and raises much needed funds for extra projects. December is usually our biggest month. Won't you consider purchasing your gift cards through Blooming Grove Academy? It costs nothing to you but the benefits are a gift to the students of BGA. Our Blooming Bucks program has many more vendors available than what we can list on our one page order form. To see a complete listing of these vendors, simply access the Great Lakes Scrip Center website at <http://www.glscrip.com/>.



## Festival of Trees

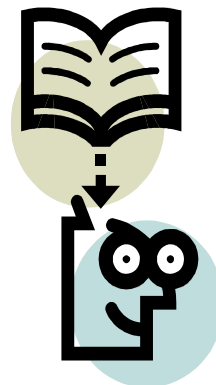
The entire school packed into cars and mini vans on Friday November 20<sup>th</sup> to visit the beautiful sights at the Festival of Trees. We even got to see the Blooming Grove Tree designed and decorated by the middle and elementary students in Cristen's selective. Thank you to all the parents who drove and made this field trip a success.



## MatheMagic Field Trip

On November 3<sup>rd</sup> the middle school and elementary students visited The Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts to see MatheMagic. Hailed as one of the pre-eminent shows for young people, MatheMagic! featured world-class magic, comedy, and theatre. Amidst all the oohs, aahs, and laughter, Bradley Fields challenged, and provoked critical thinking and problem-solving. Using a “discovery approach,” kids explored ancient

civilizations and met Imhotep, Pythagoras, and the first magicians (whose secret was really math!). With costumes, music, multimedia visuals and audience participation, Fields connects with kids of different ages, abilities and learning styles. Kids leave the theatre brimming with confidence and gain a new fascination for the history, the power, and the beauty of the language of math.



## Teachers Talking by Kris Barnett

When you choose to enroll your child at BGA, you are choosing a school that is greatly influenced by the philosophy of Albert Adler. But what does being an Adlerian school really mean? How does the Adlerian philosophy “work” in an educational setting?

First, we must remember the Adlerian basics of mutual respect, choice, responsibility, consequences, and belonging. In our classrooms, the faculty and staff help children develop a positive lifestyle and social interest. The goal is establishing a positive self-concept. Children can learn advanced social skills when given the opportunity to belong to a group. Collaboration between students and teachers and students and students is extremely important for valuing cooperation—not competition.

Remember, all behavior has a purpose. In our classrooms, trained teachers and staff help guide the child from misbehavior by recognizing the motivation behind the self-defeating behavior. The process begins with encouraging the child and accepting where the child is in that moment. (Showing empathy and respect for a child at that time is invaluable). The process ends with establishing natural consequences that are related to the behavior and are respectful and reasonable.

At BGA, we value and understand that children have an insatiable desire to belong, to be valued by their peers, and to be respected and encouraged. We will continue this tradition with your children.

## Box Tops

**Blooming Grove  
Academy**  
510 E. Washington Suite  
115 Bloomington, IL  
61701

**Phone:**  
(309) 827-2932

**Fax:**  
(309) 827-2932

**E-mail:**  
director@bgakids.net

Keep collecting Box Tops in support of Blooming Grove! The next submission to General Mills is in late February 2010. That's just a few short months away! Please consider asking friends, family, or even your company to help collect Box Tops in support of BGA.

There's still time to earn some bonus Box Tops for BGA. For every new family that signs up by 12/31/2009 to receive the Box Tops email Newsletter, BGA will receive 5 Bonus Box Tops. It's simple, visit <http://www.boxtops4education.com/2008> to sign up. Once you've signed up, check out the website to find out more about participating products, coupons, promotions and opportunities to enter sweepstakes.

Remember, the General Mills Box Tops for Education Program has four ways you can help BGA earn money:

**Box Tops Coupons** - Clip Box Tops coupons from hundreds of participating products found in the local grocery stores and turn them into BGA. We earn 10 cents for each Box Top redeemed. **The Box Tops**

**Marketplace** - Shop online at your favorite stores like JC Penney and Lands' End, through the Box Tops for Education Marketplace. BGA earns a percentage of each qualifying purchase at no additional cost to you.

**The Box Tops Reading Room** - Through the Reading Room, you can shop online at Barnes & Noble and up to 6% of your purchase goes back to BGA.

**The Box Tops Visa Card** - Use the Box Tops for Education Visa card and BGA earns 1% cash back every time you charge

We're on the Web!  
[Bgakids.net](http://Bgakids.net)

Many things are taken into consideration when deciding whether or not to cancel school. It is never an easy decision or one that elicits 100% agreement. Our policy as stated in the Family Handbook reads: "BGA will cancel or close the school on bad weather days if conditions specific to our school, staff or student population warrant cancellation. Missed days will be made up at the end of the school year if possible. Because so many of our parents are transporting their children themselves, please use **your discretion** in deciding if you can safely transport your children to school. All school functions are cancelled if school is not in session or dismissed early." Please tune into the radio/TV stations below, to determine if school will be cancelled on bad weather days.

If bad weather should arise once school is in session, we try to remain open if at all possible. If conditions worsen and we feel we need to dismiss early, we will call the radio/TV stations listed below. **Please do not call the school to see if we are dismissing early.** The office is typically very busy monitoring the weather, and taking phone calls may further delay decision making.

**For school closings listen/watch local stations:**

**WJBC-1230 AM  
WBNQ-101.5 FM  
WEEK TV- NEWS 25**