JANUARY 2026 PTA NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year Bret Harte Bears! We hope you had a wonderful winter break.

🐻 PTA News

The PTA plays a vital role in supporting our school through fundraising, community events, and volunteer efforts. Want to get involved?

📌 Next PTA Association Meeting
📅 Monday, January 12 | 6:00 PM | Parent Room

Everyone is welcome—come meet fellow parents and learn how you can make a difference at our school!

📧 Contact us: BretHarteBearsPTA@gmail.com
🔗 Join the PTA - Sign up to become a member for only $10 linktr.ee/brethartebearsPTA

Want to contribute directly to the PTA? Donate: bit.ly/BretHarteDonate

Upcoming Events

Ongoing events:
🕐 10-Minute Morning Movement — Every Friday at 8:00 AM. Families are invited to join their students for some fun and energizing movement to kick off the day! Please sign-in in the office before heading to the track!
☕ Bear Necessities — Friday, January 9 at 8:15 AM. A great opportunity for open dialogue and connection with the Principal!
🌿 Bears on the Lawn Family Picnic— Friday, January 9. Join your student for a meal during their scheduled lunch break.

TK and Kindergarten Tours
📅 Every Friday in January | 9:00 AM | 📍 Multipurpose Room

Please help spread the word by encouraging friends and neighbors with TK or Kindergarten-aged students, as well as families with students in other grades who are interested in open enrollment, to join us for a tour of Bret Harte. If you are interested in assisting with school tours, please call the front office at 916-395-5190..

Save the Date: Valentine Dance
📅 Friday, February 6 | 5:30-7:00 PM | 📍 Multipurpose Room

We need volunteers to make it a fun evening for students and families! Please check out the sign-up genius below for volunteer opportunities.

🔗 https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805044DAFAE2DA5FB6-61438558-valentines

Events Committee

Event Committee Meeting
No meeting this month! Next meeting is Thursday, February 12 | 6:00 PM | 📍 Parent Room

Please join us to see how you can get involved in our winter and spring events.

Garden Committee

Our school garden continues to grow—both literally and figuratively! In December, our fifth- and sixth-grade students learned about tree pruning from a professional, gaining hands-on experience right in the garden. Using this space as a living classroom is a core part of our vision and why we are so committed to maintaining it.

Garden Committee Meeting
📅 Wednesday, January 7 | 6:00 PM | 📍 Parent Room

Garden Work Day
📅 Saturday, January 17 | 10:00 AM
All helping hands are welcome! We're excited to continue working on our Butterfly Garden!

If you have any clean cardboard (non-shiny and free of tape, staples, or labels), please bring it along — we'll be using it for sheet mulching the garden area.Let's grow something beautiful together! 🌿

🔗 Visit our garden blog: https://sites.google.com/view/bret-harte-school-garden

Want to contribute directly to the garden?
Donate: bit.ly/BretHarteDonate

Fundraising Committee

Thank you to everyone who participated in the December See's Candy Fundraiser! We raised $555 for the PTA!

Eat Happy, Give Back with Mendocino Farms on January 12

On January 12, from 2:00 PM-close, Bret Harte Elementary is thrilled to partner with Mendocino Farms at 4730 Freeport Blvd Suite 110 for Eat Happy, Give Back. You can order online for pickup or delivery using the promo code: GIVEBACK or present the attached flyer in the restaurant. Mendocino Farms will donate 20% of the proceeds to Bret Harte Elementary PTA!

Fundraising Committee Meeting
No meeting this month! Next meeting is Wednesday, February 11| 6:00 PM | 📍 Parent Room

Come join us and help to plan our next big fundraiser, The Pancake Breakfast!

Want to contribute directly to the PTA? This fiscal year, we have raised $574 through the generosity of our community via our Paypal account. Every dollar helps our school directly. Set up a one-time or automatic monthly donation using this link: bit.ly/BretHarteDonate

Student Belonging Committee

Student Belonging Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 13 | 5:15 PM | 📍 Parent Room

Thank you to the families that participated in the Family Survey. Your feedback provides an important snapshot of our strengths and the areas we will focus on for growth this year, in addition to the priorities identified through the Kelvin student survey data.

Kudos!

Thank you, Ms. Justice, for the wonderful Winter Performance, and thank you, Mr. Cunningham, for joyfully leading our students in caroling around the neighborhood— such special experiences!

Congrats to all the students who participated in the first-ever Bear Market!

Yearbook

Early Bird Special: Order Your Yearbook Today Before Prices Go Up

Order your yearbook today for only $23. When you order online, you'll also be given the chance to upgrade your book to a hardcover. Yearbooks will be distributed to students in early June. Visit ybpay.com to order your yearbook today! Yearbook ID Code: 15459226

Items Needed!

The PTA is looking for some items to refresh the Parent Room and the Staff Lounge. If you would like to donate any of these items or have a lead, please email us at BretHarteBearsPTA@gmail.com

- Office chairs/conference room chairs for Parent Room
- Office chairs/conference room chairs for Staff Lounge
- Conference table for Parent Room
- Large conference table for Staff Lounge

Upcoming School Dates To Note

Every Fri in January | 9:00 AM | TK & Kindergarten Tours

1/9 | Fri | 8:10 PM | Bear Necessities: Principal Chat

1/9 | Fri | 11:00 AM-12:25 PM | Bears on the Lawn Family Picnic

1/12 | Mon | 6:00 PM PTA Meeting

1/15 | Thu | 5:30 PM | School Site Council

1/19 | Mon | No School (MLK Holiday)

1/26 | Mon | Progress Reports Sent Home