March 2026 PTA NEWSLETTER

🐻 PTA News

The PTA plays a vital role in supporting our school through fundraising, community events, and volunteer efforts.

📌 **Next PTA Association Meeting**
📅 Monday, March 9 | 6:00 PM | Parent Room

We will start discussing plans for next year and start preparing for the elections in May. If you have new ideas for next year or feedback about changes you would like to see, it is especially important to attend the March and May meetings. Your voice and input help shape the direction of our school community.

We will also be planning for Teacher Appreciation Week in May.

Everyone is welcome—come meet fellow parents, stay informed, 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 — Thursday, March 5 at 8:10 AM. A great opportunity for open dialogue and connection with the Principal!
🌿 Bears on the Lawn Family Picnic— RESCHEDULED for Thursday, March 5. Join your student for a meal during their scheduled lunch break.

Read Across Bret Harte
📅 March 2-6

In celebration of National Read Across America Week, we are excited to host Read Across Bret Harte from March 2nd–6th! Throughout the week, each class will participate in a variety of fun and engaging reading activities. On **Wednesday, March 4th**, we invite parents, family members, and community members to sign up as classroom readers. Come share your love of reading by reading a book from our collection to one of our classes!

You may choose a time that works best for you between **8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.** When signing up, please select your preferred time and indicate any classroom preference you may have. We look forward to celebrating the joy of reading together!

Sign up here and choose the time you are available and any classroom preference you have:
🔗 https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805044EA5AD2FA6FA7-62512923-read#/
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Save the Date! Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
📅 Saturday, April 25 | 8:30 MA-11:00 AM
Tickets are $10! Take advantage of our **early-bird special** and receive **20% off** when you purchase your tickets in advance. Don't wait—secure your tickets early and save! Buy tickets: http://bit.ly/bhpancake

Events Committee

In preparation for the Spring Art Show, the Events Committee will be leading special art projects in classrooms on **Monday, March 23**. We are looking for volunteers to help lead these projects! All materials and instructions will be prepped ahead of time, making it easy and fun to participate. Keep an eye out for a SignUpGenius link if you would like to volunteer.

We are also collecting donations of **cardboard egg cartons** for one of the art activities. If you are able to contribute, please drop them off in the school office.

Thank you for helping make our Spring Art Show a success!

Next Events Committee Meeting is in April!
📅 Thursday, April 9 | 6:00 PM | 📍 Parent Room
Please join us to see how you can get involved!

Garden Committee

Our gardens will be on two tours in April:
1. California Native Plant Society's "Gardens Got Natives" tours will feature the native garden along the Franklin Blvd & 9th Ave sidewalks.
2. The school garden and our new Butterfly Garden expansion will be open for tours during the Curtis Park Home & Garden Tour on April 25th

Help us get ready for these tours by participating in one or all of the following work days!

Garden Work Days

📅 Saturday, March 7 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
📅 Saturday, March 21 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
📅 Saturday, April 11 | 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
📅 Saturday, April 18 | 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Garden Committee Meeting
📅 Wednesday, March 4 | 6:00 PM | 📍 Parent Room

The Garden Committee is excited to host a **Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser**! Get your home garden ready for the season with a wonderful selection of plants, including tomatoes, eggplant, squash, peppers, basil, cucumber, melon, sunflowers, and more. Be sure to **pre-order online before they sell out!** Quantities are limited, so don't miss your chance to stock up and support our school.Thank you for helping our garden grow! Order form is at http://bit.ly/bhplantsale

Seeking Donations of 4" Pots
We are looking for donations of 4" plastic nursery pots for our upcoming plant sale in April. If you have pots to donate see Emily, send us an email at brethartegarden@gmail.com or leave the pots at the office for pick up. Thank you!

Go here for an up to date calendar of garden activities and updates on the garden blog: https://sites.google.com/view/bret-harte-school-garden

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

Fundraising Committee

Next Fundraising Committee Meeting is in April
📅 Wednesday, April 8 | 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? 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, March 10 | 5:15 PM | 📍 Parent Room
Everyone is welcome - Your voices help shape a stronger, more connected school community!

The new books for the library have arrived! We carefully selected this new collection to help more students see themselves reflected in the stories on Bret Harte's bookshelves, and we are so excited for students to begin reading them.

We are also developing a new **Book of the Month** program—modeled after a successful program at another school—to rotate some of these titles through classrooms throughout the year.

In addition, we are working to assemble classroom resources that teachers have identified as especially helpful for fostering belonging. These efforts thoughtfully integrate insights from student data, our family survey, and teacher interviews.

We look forward to seeing these new books and resources strengthen our school community and support every student.

Volunteers Needed!

Playground Ball Maintenance
Volunteers needed for about 10 minutes on Friday mornings to inspect, inflate, and maintain the playground balls. Sign up here:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805044EA5AD2FA6FA7-61865808-playground#/

Book Fair Volunteers
Students have been asking for another book fair, so we scheduled one before Spring Break. Volunteers needed for setting up the fair on Friday 3/20. Volunteers needed to help with the fair Tues-Fri 3/24-3/27.
Sign up here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805044EA5AD2FA6FA7-62416641-book#/

Spring Fling Eggstravaganza at Sierra 2
📅 Sunday, March 21 | 9:00 AM-1:30 PM | 📍Sierra 2
This annual event includes an egg hunt, crafts, donuts and more! Bret Harte PTA will have a table at the event and will help families with spring themed press on tattoos. Contact Megan at brethartebearspta@gmail.com if you would like to help out!

Yearbook

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**

Submit Your Photos to be Included in Our School Yearbook
Want to be part of the 2025-2026 yearbook? Submit your photos from this school year for consideration. We want our yearbook to represent all of our students, and we're looking for photos of students engaged in various campus activities, including: field trips, garden, recess, music, P.E., spirit days, buddy events, performances, and general class activities.

Photos can be easily uploaded to our yearbook photo site at community.lifetouch.com. The invite code is **GO-BRET-HARTE-BEARS-26**. When you upload photos, you'll be given the opportunity to "tag" or label photos, please select a tag for your photos from the dropdown. This will help ensure that any photos chosen get placed correctly in the yearbook. All photos must be submitted by April 15.

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

Spring Break Art Camp at Sierra2 Center!

Creative Vibes: Art Day Camp
March 30-April 3| 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Ages 7-11
Our neighbors at the Sierra 2 Center invite you to a week filled with art, creativity, and exploration. See attached flyer for details!

Upcoming School Dates To Note

3/5 | Thu | 8:10 AM | Bear Necessities: Principal Chat
3/5 | Thu | 11:00 AM-12:25 PM | Bears on the Lawn Family Picnic
3/6-3/13 | Fri-Fri | Teacher Conferences (Early Dismissal)
3/13 | Fri | Trimester 2 Awards
3/18 | Wed | Spring Picture Day
3/23 | Mon | PTA Art Projects in Classrooms
3/23-3/27 | Mon-Fri | Book Fair
3/30-4/3 | Mon-Fri | No School (Spring Break)