

Billings Family Association

November BFA Meeting

11/1/2024

All parents and caregivers are invited to participate in BFA Meetings, during which we provide updates on upcoming school and BFA events and plan BFA activities. Some people attend simply to learn what's happening at Billings; others come to get involved. Attendees may participate in person or online.

Meeting Agenda:

1. Introductions

- Emily Holland, Molly Countryman, Scheer Chan, Rebecca Piha, Laurie Alexander, Koby McInnis-Fuller, Mike Montgomery

2. Announcements

- November 7 parenting event – 6-7:30pm this Thursday
 - Rob will speak on “The World of Middle Schoolers,” providing an overview of adolescent brain development and the major social-emotional themes in the lives of our students
 - Breakout groups by grades for small-group discussion
 - Refreshments will be provided
 - RSVP at this [link](#)
- Pinehurst Craft Fair – 11/16 from 12-3pm, after Billings’ open house
 - There will be a Billings alumni table (coordinated by staff) plus a table for Billings kid crafts (coordinated by 7th-gr parent [Shawna Collins](#))
 - Heads-up: The event will be canceled if there’s lightning again this year

3. Upcoming Events & Activities

- Spring Auction event team
 - Koby is starting to put the team together – [Let her know](#) if you’re interested
- Admissions support
 - Mike will ask Stephanie what other help is needed at this point
 - [Sign up](#) to volunteer at upcoming open houses:
 - Saturday, November 16th, 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM
 - Wednesday, December 11th, 5:30-7:30 PM
 - Looking for families to talk with feeder schools

- Looking for 7th & 8th grade student ambassadors for other open houses
 - We had a discussion about ways to engage families directly during open houses
- Día de Los Muertos
 - This event will be fleshed out further in coming years, as Kruthi has more space to plan. She is grounding the event in the cultural significance of the holiday.
- Dec Faculty Dinner
 - Kick-off meeting on 11/8 from 8:30-9:30am
 - [Email](#) Laurie if interested in joining team
 - This is a faculty appreciation dinner for faculty that takes place at the school the Wednesday before Winter Break starts. (This year, the event will be 12/18). The event team selects and books the caterer, decorates the gym (using Billings' materials and supplementing as they wish), and buying beverages. There is a budget for the caterer and beverages.
- UW Bowling Night
 - Kick-off meeting on 11/15 from 8:30-9:30am
 - [Email](#) Laurie if interested in joining team
 - For UW bowling night, we rent the entire bowling alley at the university's student union (the HUB). The event is held on a Saturday evening in January. The event team selects the date, books the bowling alley, invites families to join, buys pizza and drinks, and staffs the event. There is a budget for the alley rental, pizza, and drinks.
- Mid-Winter Faculty Appreciation
 - Kick-off will happen in December
 - [Email](#) Laurie if interested in joining team
 - From mid-January until Mid-Winter Break in February, the event team puts together a series of weekly faculty appreciation events like an espresso cart, visiting massage therapist, catered lunch, notes of appreciation. The event team plans the slate of events. There is a budget to cover activities.
- BFA Meetings
 - Why attend a BFA meeting? Attendee feedback:

- Still trying to figure out how to get involved so this minimum commitment works
 - Nice to have a space for things to come up for discussion
 - Learn more about the community, being new to the school
 - Hard for working parents to make it
 - Don't think monthly is too often, hard to maintain engagement if less often
 - Meet people and build community by attending
- More community- building opportunities?
 - How about an afterschool / pre-dropoff parent/caregiver hangout on a weekly basis?
 - Weekly seems like a lot since already doing the Friday morning coffees
 - UCDS did a monthly afterschool art project for kids and parents – A 6th-gr parent has expressed interest in doing a monthly art thing; maybe they could help
 - Could also be a courtyard fire pit meetup thing on a monthly basis