

THE BEYESANDER



**WILLIAM BEYE
ELEMENTARY
APRIL 2017**

April has brought showers!

As the month winds down and we see that spring is truly, finally sprung, we can see that they are bringing what will be May flowers. April also brought the passage of two referenda questions that were posed by D97. Those yes votes have secured the future fiscally for the district and will allow this generation of Beye Bobcats to continue receiving art, music and world language instruction, to visit a library staffed by a full-time teacher librarian, to have technology available to support learning and to come to a building that, though old, will be cared for and upgraded to keep it ready to support learning. We are thankful for the support and the opportunity to see all students receiving a rich and vibrant curriculum for years to come.

The **work on our building** will commence straight away this summer with upgrades to the fire alarm system and a complete redo of the flat roofs that cover the entire building. Having the fire alarm off-line will mean the building will essentially be closed to summer programming, though the office will be open much of the summer as per usual. We also will see a replacement of our antiquated intercom system and the installation of a central, synchronized clock system.

We are happy to announce our **Kindergarten Open House** on May 3rd at 2:30pm. As we do each year, we'll welcome new students and their families to the auditorium for introductions and a brief overview, followed by classroom visits and a building tour. If you or someone you know has an incoming kindergarten student, we'd like them there and we'd like them to register. The district recently hosted four kindergarten registration days, but there will be at least one or two more that will be added to capture any families still needing to register. Also, Beye will be welcoming families back for a visit to allow students to complete a Kindergarten Readiness Test (KRT) and parents to complete an Ages and Stages (ASQ) questionnaire. This information helps us to construct classes that are well rounded and balanced. Contact the office for help with registration or with scheduling a KRT appointment.

Last month, I mentioned a new **bullying reporting form** becoming available online. That form is now up and running and available on the front page of the Beye web site at www.op97.org/beye. If you are aware of bullying or suspect that it may be going on, please use this form to document the facts as you know them.

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to allow us to investigate and follow up. You should also contact your child's teacher and you may certainly reach out to me as well. We define bullying as aggressive behavior that is intentional and involves an imbalance of power. Most often, it is repeated over time.

This year's teachers do most of the hard work putting together balanced, diverse classes for next year that will maximize learning for everyone. I encourage you to trust in their knowledge of your learner and their classmates and to trust that students benefit from having a variety of teachers with a variety of styles and approaches. If you feel you need to, you may send me a letter or an email before the end of the school year with additional information for me to consider as I finalize homeroom assignments for the 2017-2018 school year. Please keep the focus of your letter on your learner and their strengths and weaknesses, and not on requests for a specific teacher. Unless you ask me too, I will not share any information in your letter with next year's teacher. Assignments are finalized in August, when we'll have a clearer picture of our enrollment for next year.

Nicer weather means **more dogs coming to school**. While we love seeing our four-footed friends and all those wagging tails, please remember that school board policy prohibits dogs on school property. In addition to keeping dogs off the blacktop, field and playground,

we also ask that you steer clear of the alley, as running that gauntlet with a dog or two parked there can be unnecessarily unnerving for our students. The best place to say hello or goodbye to Lassie is near the split rail fence on the east side of the playground. We appreciate your help before school, after school and any other time you may be coming with your canine.

As I write this, the **PTO still needs executive board members and other members** for next year. I could quote you the research that says your involvement at school will help your child be more successful in school and life. I could testify to the high quality of the people already committed to serving. Instead, I'm taking the direct route. **WE NEED YOU!** The PTO makes Beye better and having those leadership positions filled is the first step toward the PTO having a great 2017-18. Please contact outgoing Co-President Kelly Simkowski or reach out to me and tell of your willingness to pitch in!

As always, feel free to email, call, tweet (@BeyeTheWay) or stop by with good news, questions or concerns. I so appreciate your support of your child, your classroom, your teacher, your principal and your school.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Ellwanger, Principal



OPEF News: Participate in an exciting community art project

OPEF is partnering with Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School and OPRF High School's art teacher Tracy Van Duinen, a nationally renowned mosaic muralist, to create a fantastic public art display.

As part of OPEF's Mosaic Mural Project BASE camp, students will create a colorful and informative 600-square foot mosaic mural that will pay tribute to poet Gwendolyn Brooks in celebration of her 100th birthday. The mural will be installed on the outside wall of Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School. Purchase a customized tile, personalized with an image or wording of your choice, here: www.opef.org/mosaic.

OPEF NEWS:

Buy now!
opef.org/mosaic

MOSAIC MURAL

2" tile / \$50
personalize with jpeg image

4" tile / \$200
personalize with name

Participate in an exciting community art project!

Oak Park Education Foundation is partnering with Brooks Middle School and OPRF High School's art teacher Tracy VanDuinen, a nationally renowned mosaic muralist, to create a stunning design in honor of Gwendolyn Brooks in celebration of her 100th birthday!

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Oak Park Education Foundation

B-A-S-E CAMP

Brooks Middle School

Reflections from the PTO...

Dear Beye Parents,

With spring break behind us, we look forward to a very busy and exciting May and the end of school. As we look to finish out the 2016-2017 school year, the month of May provides us with several opportunities to celebrate and come together as a school community. I hope that you will join us for these fun events:

The Annual PTO-Sponsored Beye School Talent Show — May 11th and May 12th

Due to the increased popularity of this event, the talent show has been expanded to two nights! Join us on Thursday, May 11th and Friday, May 12th in the Beye School Auditorium. This year's event is guaranteed to be entertaining as our kids show off their various talents including singing, dancing, acting, demonstrating their sports savvy and even some comedy.

New this year, the PTO will be sponsoring a **Pizza Dinner** before each show to allow our parents and kids to celebrate this event together as a community. Watch for additional announcements in the next few weeks as the date gets closer.

Last General PTO Meeting — May 17th @ 7pm

Mark your calendars for the last general PTO meeting on Wednesday, May 17th at 7pm in the Beye School Commons. During that meeting, we will have a guest speaker (stay tuned), elect next year's leadership and review the proposed PTO budget for the 2017-2018 school year.

The End of School Picnic — Tuesday, June 6 @ 5pm

Come celebrate good times and the end of the school year with the PTO End of School Picnic the last week of school. Stay tuned for more information in the upcoming weeks!

Lastly, we hope you'll consider **joining the PTO**. We are looking to fill a few PTO Executive Board positions along with a number of additional roles for next year. There is something for every skill set and time commitment.

Reach out to Kelly for more details: mrssim1120@sbcglobal.net.

Also, we want to thank each of you for your individual and collective contributions that create success here at Beye, providing new experiences for our students. We are helping to make memories for our students that will last a lifetime.

Sincerely,

Kelly Simkowski and Stephanie Kloster-De La Rosa



2017 Beye-in Parties are Back!

Beye-In Parties are back! Sign up now! What's a Beye-In Party? They are a variety of parties hosted by Beye families for Beye families. This is our largest combined fundraiser this year that benefits our Beye children from assemblies, to busses for field trips, enrichments programs, and so much more! Check out this amazing list and sign up. Many sell out quickly!

Sign up here <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0e4ea5ad2fa20-2017>.

To purchase the parties, pay online at www.beyeschoolpto.org/beye-in or drop off a check made payable to "Beye School PTO" at the front office. 100% of the money benefits the PTO and your children.

Parties for Kids

- Minute to win it (grades 4-5), May 5, 3:00-5:00pm - Students will enjoy these fun and challenging one minute games to win it at Beye! We will gather at the close of the games for food and drinks. (\$15 per child) Hosts: Kelly Simkowski & Stephanie Kloster - De La Rosa
- Disco Dodgeball (grades 3-5), May 19, 3:00-5:00pm - Students will show their Dodgeball skills with guests, Mr. Manus and Mr. Simatic at Beye! We will gather at the close of the games for food and drinks. (\$20 per child) Hosts: Kelly Simkowski, Mr. Manus & Mr. Simatic

Parties for Adults

- Scoville Progressive, May 20, 6:30pm - Please join us for an evening of cinematic spectacle as we jump from screen to screen (and plate to plate) in a Celebration of Cinema-themed progressive dining. Our evening begins in black tie and evening gowns as we celebrate Hollywood's Golden Age. Next we travel across the globe from Hollywood-to Bollywood! Don't get too comfortable-things get diabolical at dark! I scream, you scream... we ALL scream at a horror film-themed dessert stop-if you dare enter! We'll end the night with a movie-themed dance party! Creative movie themed costumes encouraged, but not required. (\$75 per person-ADULT only) Hosts: Rupa Datta and Ravi Nemana, Amanda and Chris Miller, Eva and Bill Pearson, Monica Khetarpal and James Botana
- High Tea, May 21, 3:00pm - Join us for an afternoon of tea, scones, pastries and cucumber sandwiches - in addition to good conversation and a little bubbly. We'll do High Tea Beye style! (\$40 per person-ADULT only) Host: Carrie Cotter
- Salsa Party, June 3, 7:00pm - We will have Latin music and drinks, dance lessons, tapas, and more dancing at the hottest party around! (\$50 per person-ADULT only) Hosts: Lali Puig, Suzanne Cronacher, Christine Bonomo, Sara Neuner, Gina Kreidler & Elizabeth Goodman

More Beye-in Parties Coming soon!

- Winedown Yoga

Parties for Families

- Family Crawfish Boil, May 27, 2:00pm - Round up the family and join us for an authentic Louisiana-style crawfish boil! Includes ice cold beer and cocktails for the over 21-set, and bouncy house, fruit punch, and a selection of non-fishy fare for the wee ones. (\$50 per family) Hosts: Amy Moriarta and Mrunil Champaneri & Pam Daley and Brian Feiser



BEYE DISCOVERY

Beye PTO

After School Enrichment Program with a Focus in Art and Science

For information about Beye Discovery, please visit <http://www.beyeschoolpto.org/beye-discovery.html> or contact Jocelyne Adkins, Program Director, at beye.discovery@gmail.com.

Beye Discovery Highlights

Mid March:

1. Celebrated the first day of spring, making small "sneaky art" items for family members and friends to discover at home. We glued images of animals on craft sticks and attached "speech bubble" sentiments, such as "Happy Spring" and "I Love you!" At home, the students hid their "sneaky art" creations in places that their family members would find the next day such as in the fridge, on a bookshelf or on the counter.
2. Participated in a "Tree"-themed nature walk to observe the tree branch characteristics of various tree species, including sycamores, oaks, maples, and ornamental pears. Following our walk, students shared their observations with the class, sketching these shapes on the white board. We then created watercolor resists of trees observed on our nature walk and selected colors as they appear in nature or expressively: view the photos included here to see beautifully painted rainbow-colored branches!
3. Inspired by the hilarious *Klutz Book of Inventions*, students created inventions to increase the FUN factor during spring break. From waterparks to devices that allow gamers to consume fluids while enjoying uninterrupted play, these inventions could be worth millions!
4. Designed small traveling puppet shows on the last day of school before spring break! We used oil pastels on cardstock in the shape of a decorative picture frame to represent the theater and setting. Students also created characters with collage papers and glued them onto craft sticks. The theatre had several slits cut into it to allow the characters to move side to side in the space!

April:

1. Welcomed Earth Month with a clay project, as is our yearly tradition. This year, we selected a "Desert Ecosystem" theme. After reading Cactus Hotel, a book by Brenda Guiberson about the life cycle of the giant Saguaro cactus, students created a small clay cactus and/or the animals that may inhabit the cactus.

2. In Progress: A wall mural with oil pastel that depicts the plants and animals within the deserts of the Southwestern United States. This is a dense depiction of the life that can flourish in such a harsh environment. The mural will be on view in May, in the main hallway outside the office, and will reveal the plant and animal adaptations that make survival possible within this climate.
3. Created "Planet Pals": Inspired by the book *True Green Kids: 100 Things You Can Do to Save the Planet*, students used empty play-doh containers and large plastic yogurt lids to make their Planet Pal character. In addition to repurposing materials and giving them a 2nd life, these Planet Pals encourage students to choose "green" behaviors to help preserve our planet and resources. Children can place their Planet Pal where it can remind them to turn off the water when brushing teeth; to shut lights off when leaving a room; or to save leftovers rather than tossing them.
4. In Progress: Designed stamps using chipboard from cereal boxes. Students will use the stamps to print a colorful banner on fabric. Images of bees and trees, and things near and dear to the students' hearts (like Beye School and pizza!) have emerged thus far.

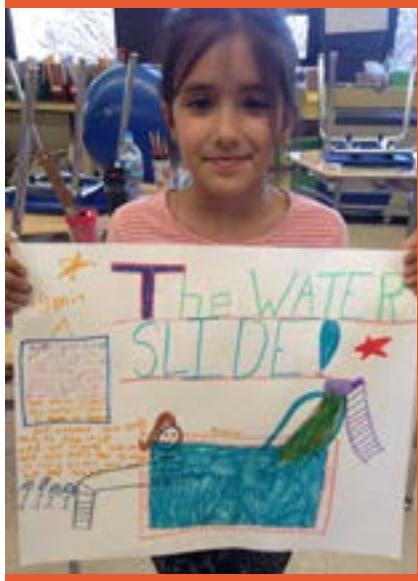
Please visit the 2nd floor display cabinet to see our spring display. Also, for those interested in joining us for the 2017/18 school year, please see flyer on page 9 of this this newsletter. Thank you!

Beye Discovery is an enrichment program of the Beye PTO that offers elementary school children opportunities for exploration and growth through creative project-based learning in art and nature based science. It is facilitated by Jocelyne Adkins, Program Director and Morgan Richardson, Teaching Assistant.

For information about Beye Discovery, please visit <http://www.beyeschoolpto.org/beye-discovery.html> or contact Jocelyne Adkins, Program Director, at beye.discovery@gmail.com.

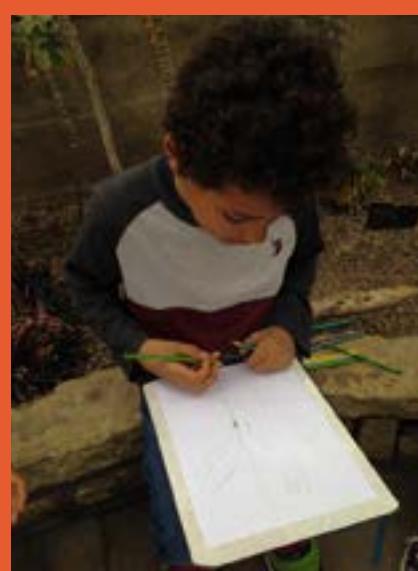
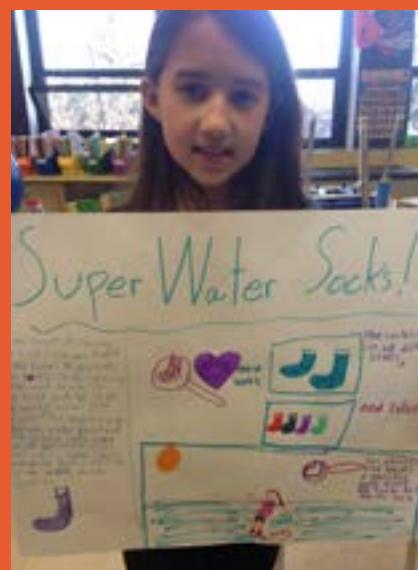
-Submitted by Jocelyne Adkins, Beye Discovery Program Director





More Beye Discovery Photos on Page 8

Beye Discovery Continued...





Open
Registration

Enroll now!
Space is limited

After School Enrichment Program, Beye PTO

Our mission is to offer elementary school children opportunities for exploration and growth through creative project-based learning in art and science

Curriculum:

The curriculum is organized by weekly themes. Through student-centered and process-based projects and activities, students learn by doing and make discoveries along the way. Multiple points of view are valued and we emphasize that there are numerous ways to solve a given problem or to approach an activity/project.

Our scheduled Field Trips and Visiting Professionals allow us to enhance and connect our learning in the classroom within our community. Excellent local resources include The Field Museum, The Art Institute of Chicago, The Oak Park Conservatory, The Garfield Park Conservatory, and The Trailside Museum and Nature Center. Back in the classroom, we invite visiting professionals who have a strong passion for what they do and a desire to share their knowledge with children.

Benefits to Students:

1. Students will learn how creativity and keen observation lead to new discoveries
2. Students will work with numerous art media and dedicated visiting professionals
3. Students will develop problem solving and social skills through collaborative work
4. Students will engage with nature to gain inspiration from our natural world
5. Students will share their creativity & knowledge with the Beye community through the display of their artwork

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions:

- Flexible enrollment options include 1-5 days per week
- A 2.5% discount is awarded to families with 2 or more children enrolled in the program
- Students who attend an after school activity may participate in Beye Discovery following their scheduled activity
- Students eat snack and have outdoor play (weather permitting) at the start of every session
- Homework time is encouraged as projects/activities come to a close, approximately 5:15pm
- Suggested pick up time is bt. 5:30 - 6pm, during free play (Legos, Citiblocks, and imaginative/sensory play items)

For detailed information or to register, please visit: <https://goo.gl/forms/VvnwQX4TjY64Kklm1>
Questions? Contact Jocelyne Adkins, Program Director at beye.discovery@gmail.com

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School Supply Kits

Avoid trips to the store, long lines,
buying the wrong items, make it easy
and order online!

Sponsored by Beye PTO

ORDER 2017-2018 SCHOOL
KITS TODAY!

Remember to order kits for NEXT year's grade

2017-2018 School Year Supply Kits

Grade	Price
Kindergarten	\$55
1st Grade	\$42
2nd Grade	\$46
3rd Grade	\$53
4th Grade	\$42
5th Grade	\$59

**Required supplies left as optional add-ons as they can
easily be brought from home or reused from previous year.**

Volume Control Headphones 1-3rd	\$8
Art Smock K-2nd	\$4
Earbuds 4-5th	\$6
Pencil Case	\$3

Please check with the Beye school office for a full list of supplies.
Online ordering open from May 1 - June 14, 2017

Easy Online Ordering!

www.carlsonschoolkits.com

Under city, click **Oak Park** and select **William Beye**.

Visa, Mastercard, Discover & American Express accepted.

Online orders are subject to sales tax.

Kits will be delivered to your child's classroom
for 1st day of school.

Questions? Contact: Lori Browder at
labbrowder@comcast.net



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Beye Celebrates Earth Month

Water is life.

April is Earth Month! Beye kicked off its annual celebration on April 5th with our local environmental rapper and educator-- Joey Fine Rhyme. This year Joey talked (and rapped) about Fresh Water--conservation, preservation, and appreciation. A small fraction of our water is fresh and drinkable so everyday conservation is so important. He showed us how plastic slush is in the ocean everywhere. Currently, five huge plastic patches the size of Texas dominate the Ocean. By 2050, we will have more plastic in the oceans than fish.

Joey encouraged the students to:

- Appreciate all the fresh water contained in the Great Lakes (Lake Michigan), which is 20% of the earth's fresh water.
- Bring Your Own Reusable Bottle (BYOBB) EVERYWHERE and try not to use single-use water bottles.
- Take a reusable grocery bag to Pete's or Jewel. Plastic bags often get trapped around or in animals of all kinds.

Something to celebrate:

The PTO is paying to install four water bottle refilling stations throughout the school. Look for those next year!

Beye Outside Explorers take us outside.

Outside Explorer Veronica J. led a group of excited Beye students to see a quiet robin perched high above the ground. They were looking for and listening to early signs of Spring. As part of Earth Month, the Outside Explorers help other students experience the fun they have had outside all year long. They will help students smell and touch the seasonal changes occurring right outside Beye school.

Your Green Team

-Submitted by Laura Derks, Green Team



Environmental Rapper and Educator Joey Fine Rhyme



A robin spotted by outside explorers



Outside explorers looking for signs of spring

The Fun Fair was a huge, silly success.



Beye's Fun Fair, held on Saturday, April 8th, was a ton of fun and raised over \$8,000 for the Beye PTO, which will go directly to programs that benefit our children.

The PTO and Special Events Co-chairs want to thank EVERYONE who helped make this year's Fun Fair a great success! We could NOT have pulled this off without your help! Thank you to:

Anna Harlan, who single-handedly jumped in to manage ticket sales, along with her husband, **Mr. Harlan. Dan George**, who effortlessly built the NEW lollipop pull and pencil pull games. **Jeanna DiMaria** and **Molly Greenwood-Whalen** for managing all of the volunteers. **Cassie Miller** who kept the cake walk moving the entire day. **Silvia House**, such a talented face painting artist that kids were lined



up all day long. **Kristi Kosten** who quickly learned how to operate our new spray-on tattoo machine and kindly taught others the trick to tattoos. **Mike Kellogg** for managing the karaoke music. Everyone who helped set up, work and break down the gym/carnival games. Everyone who helped set up, work and clean up the food. Everyone who helped set up, work and clean up the salon. **Kristen Armbruster** and **Christine Bonomo** for running the raffle ticket table. **Stephanie Kloster-De La Rosa**, who helped with fundraising and silent auction organization. **Bonnie Malik** who ran the triage event all day long. The **Green Team** who made sure we ran a zero waste event and had sorters at each station the entire day. **Ariel Schick** who bought canned beverages to serve instead of plastic water bottles.

Samina Hadi-Tabassum, who made our raffle table look beautiful. **John House** who volunteered his hotdog cart and his time to serve the hot dogs. **Steve Dormanen** and **James Botana** for dressing up as the Beye Bobcat despite the warm temperature – the kids love that Bobcat! **Mr. Ali, Mr. Manus** and **Mr. E.**, who were game for the pie-in-the-face contest – another huge and messy crowd pleaser! **Jennifer Alten** and **Sara Neuner**, who helped spread the word in print, social media and email and volunteered that day. **Bobbi Eastman**, for her help with fundraising and the hair salon (the colored hair was a hit!) **Mr. E.** for allowing us to have the new messy silly string battle on the blacktop, who grabbed a broom and helped us clean up that same silly string and who spray-painted his beard Beye school blue to show his support for the salon hair coloring. **OPRF Tau Gamma** high school students who volunteered the entire day. Everyone who so generously donated to the silent auction and raffle, including **Monica Harper** who secured the donation of those fabulous iPads. **Former Beye students from Julian** volunteered the entire day. ALL the numerous parent volunteers who repeatedly volunteer year after year. And the most important thank you of all, **Mr. Plaza** and **Mr. Stewart**, who did not complain about the silly string mess that was created this year. We're sorry for the mess and grateful for your help that day and every day!



--Submitted by Suzanne Cronacher & Jen Kellogg, PTO co-VPs of Special Events





Yearbooks are now on sale!

School days make lasting memories... preserved forever in our Beye School 2016-2017 yearbook. Visit beyeschoolpto.org/yearbook to order your child or children their own copy today!

Each copy is \$16. You have the option to purchase multiple copies or an additional gift copy for your child's teacher. The Yearbook is brought to you by the PTO. We've kept the price of the yearbook as low as possible to cover only the printing costs. If there ends up being a small surplus, it will benefit PTO programs.

Yearbooks will be distributed in early June! Copies may also be purchased at the year-end picnic but they almost always sell out. So don't take any chances, pre-order today!

-Submitted by Rachel Benoit, Yearbook Editor



Beye School Talent Show, in its 11th year!



“Under the Lights” Beye School Talent Show in May!

If you can't stop the feeling that you'll be missing something if you don't see the Beye School Talent Show this year, then mark your calendar now!

Join us for the 11th annual Beye talent show. This year's theme is based on “Can't Stop the Feeling” by Justin Timberlake from Trolls movie. You'll be riveted to your seat from the spectacular performances by our amazing students. So just imagine, just imagine, just imagine the fun you'll have!

There will be two performances to choose from:

Thursday, May 11 @ 7:00PM

Friday, May 12 @ 7:00PM

(Ice Cream Social to follow, \$3.00)

Beye School Auditorium

—Submitted by DiAne Boese, Monica Saydah, Lisa Kozinski and Wendy Negron, Directors



Students and directors hard at work rehearsing for the talent show.



VOLUNTEER AT BEYE: Big or small, there's a role for everyone!

Follow us at:



Beye School Families



Mr E: @BeyeTheWay



Editors:

Jennifer Alten and Sara Neuner

Graphic Designers:

Blake and Lindy Novotny

Beye School's PTO fundraising team is looking for volunteers! Time commitments vary. Get involved as much as you would like. Meet new people and show your kids your school spirit. Visit the PTO home page and scroll down to the bottom of the page to indicate your interest(s). www.beyeschoolpto.org.

For detailed descriptions on open positions visit the volunteer page at: www.beyeschoolpto.org/volunteer.html.



ABOUT THE BEYESTANDER

The *Beyestander* is an online newsletter of Beye School that is distributed monthly in an effort to highlight activities and events that have already occurred at Beye School – both in the classroom and outside the classroom. Articles may be written by Beye School parents, community members, teachers, and students. All articles should be submitted to beyestander@beyeschoolpto.org.

BeyeBytes Newsletter: If you are not currently receiving BeyeBytes email newsletter and would like to be added to the list, please send an email to beyebbytes@gmail.com.

BEYE SCHOOL **MY** **SCHOOL**

<http://www.beyeschoolpto.org>