

# THE BEYESTANDER



Mr. E by Maya D

WILLIAM BEYE  
ELEMENTARY  
FEBRUARY 2017

## It's the end of February, so why I am fixated on April?

Well, it's not just because it'll be here in a heartbeat. It's because on the 4th of April, we as voters will decide what District 97 will look like next year and for years to come. On that election day, two questions will be placed before us. One is a capital expenditures question that asks permission to sell bonds for facilities additions, repairs and replacements. Those bonds would keep the current debt load steady and have no impact on our tax bills. The other question asks for a tax increase to provide money for operating funds. That is the portion of the budget that pays for the people and programs we get to have in our ten D97 schools. Beyond the bricks and mortar, that's everything we actually experience as Beye School. Both are crucial questions, and both are simple and complex at the same time.

When the last referendum was passed back in 2011 the school board knew it would need to come back to the community and ask again. The board plotted the decrease in funds over time and always expected this would be about as far out as they could reasonably push the next ask. What they could not expect is that

layered on top of those projections the state would no longer continue to make good fully on its share of our revenue (19 percent), to the tune of about 9 million anticipated dollars that have not come our way since 2012.

As a district we have grown tremendously over the last decade. We have 24 percent more students than in 2007— a forty year high of 6,055 students. That's the equivalent of 5 additional classes at each of our ten schools. While Beye has not been impacted much directly by that uptick, the district as a whole has been stretched and several individual buildings have born the brunt of the growth. They are slated for expansions that would allow students to be served equitably in classrooms and not in trailers. To date, only a few elementary buildings have been made fully handicapped accessible, and as anyone who has had to navigate our building in a wheelchair can attest, that leaves us unable to accommodate students, staff and community members other than on the first floor. The facilities upgrade the bonds would provide for include accessibility enhancements for the remaining buildings. Finally and not surprisingly (as most of us who live

FEBRUARY 2017

THE BEYESTANDER

in hundred year old houses can attest), old buildings require constant upkeep, and predictably some of that work will be major. So it is when you look at the eight old elementary school buildings. No one likes biting that bullet, but just like at your house, eventually it makes more sense to have the space you need and infrastructure and mechanicals that are reliable and efficient, than it does to be cramped and hoping the next system failure is less than catastrophic. There's a reason so many homes in our community have been bumped up, bumped back, renovated and retrofitted with modern systems – the quality of life those upgrades afford is not a frill; it's a fact and at some point, a necessity.

The second question on the ballot gets at what we treasure most as a school and school district. Once you have a building, it's what goes on inside that really counts. It's what we experience daily and our children will take with them. It is how many kids are in each classroom. It is how many highly qualified teachers lead those classrooms. It's what classes students will get beyond the three Rs. It is what supports are there for students who need them. It's what materials and curricula await students each day. It's the whole enchilada – and that's why 74 percent of the D97 budget is allocated to the education fund specifically and 87 percent to combined operating funds. That's also the reason why any significant cuts that must be made cannot help but come from those funds that pay for salaries and benefits. It's the reason why the lists of reductions that are unavoidable immediately includes teachers, teachers' assistants, administrative assistants and custodians. Those reductions would start next year and continue every year thereafter.

**I will not list them all here, but among the current positions/programs that would have to be eliminated by 2018-19: all general music, art, band, foreign language, orchestra, student support specialists, librarians and language arts specialists.**

Those who have been in Oak Park a while may have a recollection of similar lists that were similarly scary when previous referendum questions were before us. Having seen them and then having seen school life go on, there may be an instinctive inclination to think,

“this too shall pass”. Pass is the operative word there, since those questions did pass, and the devastating cuts that were otherwise inevitable were avoided. That's a reflection of the final tally, not the lists. They were real as these lists are real. In the end, there simply is no other way to save the kinds of dollars that would have to be shaved. As testimony to the dire nature of our current fiscal predicament and to make it clear to the community it has skin in this game, the district has identified reductions that are necessary and will happen next year whether the referenda pass or not. 11 teachers, 20 TAs, 3 admin. assistants, 5 administrators, 5 custodians and 10 media aides will be gone regardless of the vote.

I am not allowed to present an opinion about the referenda one way or the other. It would never be my place to tell someone how to vote on April 4th. In sharing these facts with you, I hope I have highlighted some of the stark realities in a way that helps you to be an informed voter. Ultimately, we each have to ask ourselves what we value most and what we are willing to give for what we value. At present, there are four meetings scheduled (including one at Beye) to allow you to get more information and get answers to your

- **Forum hosted by District 97 – February 27 at Hatch Elementary School (1000 N. Ridgeland Ave.) from 7:00-9:00 pm**
- **Forum hosted by District 97 – March 1 at OPRF High School (201 Scoville Ave.) from 7:00-9:00 pm**
- **Forum hosted by SEOPCO – March 16 at Irving Elementary School (1125 S. Cuyler) from 7:00-9:00 pm**
- **Forum hosted by the League of Women Voters – March 20 at Beye Elementary School (230 N. Cuyler) from 7:00-8:30 pm**

If I can help answer any question(s) you may have about the referenda or anything else school related, I hope you'll find me. And of course, I always welcome your thoughts, concerns, ideas and causes for celebration. I appreciate and need your partnership and support!

Sincerely,  
Jonathan Ellwanger, Principal

# District 97 Referenda Update

During its meeting on January 10, 2017, the District 97 Board of Education approved two referenda questions that will be placed on the ballot on **APRIL 4**.

The first would call for a one percent limiting rate increase totaling approximately \$13.3 million.

The second would call for the issuance of \$57.5 million in school building bonds.

Below is a list of expected reductions of staff and programs if these referenda don't pass.

For more details on the referenda, please visit the District 97 website, and/or attend one of these information sessions listed on the previous page.

## Reductions in 2017-2018

- Eliminate 12 teaching positions
- Eliminate 20 teaching assistant positions
- Eliminate 13 administrative assistant positions
- Eliminate eight administrative positions
- Eliminate three teaching positions and three teaching assistant positions in early childhood (dependent on the availability of state funding)
- Eliminate six custodial and maintenance positions
- Eliminate two additional non-instructional positions
- Eliminate 10 media aides
- Discontinue the work being done on the organizational and data security audits
- Discontinue the vision work being conducted with the assistance of the National Equity Project
- Indefinitely postpone the refresh of student and staff technology devices
- Reduce annual software and computer maintenance
- Reduce supplies for kindergarten and teacher mentoring program
- Reduce professional development for staff

Total Reductions \$4,328,929

## Reductions in 2018-2019

- Eliminate all 15 positions in the general music program for the elementary schools
- Eliminate all 9 positions in the elementary art program
- Eliminate all 11 positions in the elementary school foreign language program (FLES)
- Eliminate all 10 teacher librarian positions
- Eliminate all 8 language arts specialist positions in the elementary schools

- Eliminate all 3 positions in the elementary band program
- Eliminate all 4 positions in the elementary instrumental music program
- Eliminate the 2 positions in the elementary orchestra program
- Eliminate all 5 student support specialist positions
- Eliminate 2 additional non-instructional positions
- Eliminate the 2 International Baccalaureate (IB) coordinator positions
- Eliminate the district's academic summer programming
- Reduce the instructional materials available to support the implementation of Eureka Math
- Eliminate team leader stipends
- Reduce resources used in conjunction with the district's Response to Intervention program
- Eliminate the Second Step program
- Eliminate resources used in conjunction with the district's professional learning communities
- Eliminate efforts to maintain the status of IB schools at Brooks and Julian
- Indefinitely postpone textbook adoptions
- Indefinitely postpone the refresh of student and staff technology devices
- Reduce professional development for staff

Total Reductions \$7,437,821

## Reductions in 2019-2020

- Eliminate 20 positions in conjunction with a complete reorganization of the middle schools
- Eliminate three administrative positions

Total Reductions \$2,134,474

## Beye School, So Cool

As I type this, it is a balmy 65 degrees outside! A far cry from our usual Chiberia this time of year! It is hard to believe that our second set of conferences is already behind us and that real spring is truly just around the corner! This year is really flying "Beye!"

Before we actually see spring arrive in Oak Park, there are many more ways for you to celebrate and have fun with fellow parents and classmates:

- \*On **March 4th**, come enjoy a fun, affordable night with the **Chicago Wolves vs. the Cleveland Monsters** at Allstate Arena. (See flyer on page 5 for ticket info!)
- \*Our **Beye-In Parties** are a little bit different this year. We have decided to eliminate some of the overhead and just promote the parties! Stay tuned for more information about several parties geared toward kids, families, and adults (Also see flyer on page 15 for details on the **Giving Artfully party on March 5**).
- \*And who can forget the **Fun Fair**? Coming on **April 8th**, this annual event requires an army of volunteers to pull off! Are you great in the kitchen? Then come help with food. Good with numbers? You can pull a shift selling tickets! A you a stylist wannabe? Volunteer to give fancy hairdos! Bake for the cake walk! Supervise a game! Donate a raffle item! The possibilities are endless!

So as you can see, there are so many ways you can get more involved with your school, both big and small. All volunteer signups will be making their way to you in the coming weeks. Sign up to volunteer and give yourself a chance to see why Beye School is So Cool!

-- Kelly Simkowski and Stephanie Kloster-de la Rosa, PTO Co-Presidents

## SPELLING BEE

On Wednesday, January 25, 62 spellers in grades 2 through 5 competed in the annual Beye School Spelling Bee. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers received a trophy or medal and a gift card to Magic Tree Bookstore. Everyone received a token for participating and was entered in the raffle to win a gift card. Congratulations to all the spellers!

--submitted by Kelly Pollack, Spelling Bee Organizer



### Grade 2 Winners

- 1st: Cal B.
- 2nd: Jasmine D.
- 3rd: Tessie W.

### Grade 4 Winners

- 1st: Malini D.-N.
- 2nd: Leah P.
- 3rd: Isabelle H.



### Grade 3 Winners

- 1st: Rohan C.
- 2nd: Tamaiyah G.
- 3rd: Sunny G.

### Grade 5 Winners

- 1st: Hayden J.
- 2nd: Yahweh A.
- 3rd: Calla C.





**BEYE PTO SCHOOL  
FAMILY NIGHT**  
**SATURDAY, MAR. 4, AT 7 PM**  
**VS CLEVELAND MONSTERS**

RECEIVE A FREE WOLVES HAT WITH EACH TICKET PURCHASED THROUGH THIS OFFER.

ALL BEYE SCHOOL FAMILY AND FRIENDS WILL BE SEATED TOGETHER IN THE SAME SECTION.

**BOOKING FORM**

<b>&gt; NUMBER OF TICKETS</b>	
# _____ of tickets @ \$24.00 each (center ice, lower level)	
# _____ of tickets @ \$17.00 each (center ice, balcony level)	
# _____ of food vouchers at \$6 (hot dog and medium soda)	
Total Enclosed	\$ _____
<b>PERSONAL DETAILS</b>	
Parents Name: _____	
Students Name: _____	
Address: _____	
City, State, Zip: _____	
Phone: _____	
Email: _____	
<b>&gt; PAYMENT DETAILS</b>	
Check number: _____	
Cash Enclosed: _____	

**HOW TO ORDER:**

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM ALONG WITH PAYMENT VIA CASH OR CHECK TO THE BEYE SCHOOL FRONT OFFICE.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "BEYE SCHOOL PTO".

CONTACT MONICA HARPER AT 916-769-5948 MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS.

## Third graders share kindness with Housing Forward

### **In February, Beye's 3rd grade classes received a lesson in kindness that paid back in spades.**

The endeavor began with a toiletry drive led by teacher Lindsay Smith. She set up a collection box for the Beye Community to donate items such as shampoo, soap and toothpaste – all items desperately needed by the homeless community.

The drive was a huge success, yielding six large, full boxes of toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, tissues and hand sanitizer.

Next, Beye parent Suzanne Cronacher led a grade-wide activity to create kindness bags as a way to easily distribute these items to people in need. The entire 3rd grade met in the Commons to create sturdy bags out of Ziplocs and duct tape and then filled more than 50 bags with personal care items.

After school let out on Friday, February 16, Cronacher and several other 3rd grade parents took a group of 12 students to Housing Forward, a homeless shelter in Maywood, to pass out the kindness bags and donate the remaining toiletries. They also gave Housing Forward a card signed by all the Beye 3rd graders.

“Everyone behaved famously—they were inquisitive, kind, and curious. Beye School was well represented by all of the children!” said Cronacher. “Thank you to Ms. Smith, Ms. Choi and Ms. Walsh-Kallay for coming up with this idea and spearheading this fantastic kindness gesture.”

Housing Forward, which doesn't have the budget to purchase these items, was extremely grateful for the donation. The organization helped over 1,800 families last year and also offers services such as job placement and helps defray rent.

--Submitted by Jennifer Alten







# 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](mailto:beye.discovery@gmail.com).

## Beye Discovery Highlights: End of January through Mid-February:

### January:

1. Conducted taste experiments and created recipes for homemade soda using vanilla, cinnamon, lemon, lime and club soda
2. Hosted visiting artist Sara Goodman, who brought "Old School" technology to the classroom using a TV, camcorder, and circuit bent mixer for the students to create manipulated "Selfies"
3. Visited the Art Institute of Chicago for Teacher Institute Day on January 27th to view a number of artists we studied in the classroom: Marisol, Joan Mitchell, Karel Appel and Jackson Pollock

### February:

1. Made with TLC: Doll buddies for classmate undergoing surgery
2. Created soft toys using mismatched mittens and gloves and colorful, patterned socks
3. Introduced Black History Month with two contemporary women artists: Mikalena Thomas and Kesha Bruce, both of whom use mixed media in their work
4. Played a drawing game in groups of two, inspired by the correspondence of two artists: Hana Akiyama from Tokyo and Hanna Konola from Helsinki. Without words, the artists responded to each other via images, relying on the elements and principles of design and a bit of representation. For our drawing game, students used a 10-page minibook, and responded to each other's drawings, selecting lines,

shapes, colors, etc., to reappear in their own drawing, but in a new way. (This is a super activity for a rainy day and if you have two books going at once, there is no "down time" ; )

5. Created mouse shaped Valentines for loved ones (fold a white heart in half and voila, you have a nearly complete mouse shape (add small heart shaped ears, color in eyes, and add yarn for a tail and you are done!)
6. Began a mural for Ms. Weigel in the library, inspired by the picture Book "Henry and Leo" by Pamela Zagarenski
7. Painted a library sign for Mr. Withers to hang above the Beye Library entrance
8. Continued our Cindy Sherman inspired portraits with our Monday students, creating back-drops for our upcoming photo shoot

### Coming up:

1. We are very pleased to be a part of a Community Service Project with three 8th Graders from Julian Middle School: **Najda Hadi-St.John, Charlotte Reynders, and Sivan Aharon**. This passionate trio is creating a "Tree of Life" and giving a second life to everyday packaging materials, upcycling them into a large and beautiful tree sculpture to be displayed at Julian Middle School!
2. Writer M. G. Bertulfo of Tale Blazers in Oak Park, will come for a second visit on March 8th, to do a project inspired by the picture book "Honoring Our Ancestors". As introduced by M.G., students will write stories of courage about their own families. **We will use cigar boxes for this project, so if anyone has cigar boxes to donate, please contact Jocelyne at [beye.discovery@gmail.com](mailto:beye.discovery@gmail.com).** Thank you!



1. Xantal, Mixed Media Collage; 2. Hank and Noah, Hanna to Hana Books; 3. Sasha with handsewn doggie soft toy; 4. Noah, Soda Making Taste Test; 5. Ellie and Henry, Soda Recipe Notes; 6. Morgan and Lucy, Mice Valentines; 7. Charlotte, Circuit Bent Mixer Selfie; 8. Elise, Soda Making Taste Test; 9. Circuit Bent Mixer Selfies in Costume; 10. Tariq Painting with Circuit Bent Mixer; 11. Ashley and Laila Mural Painting, Beye Library; 12. David, Mixed Media Collage Inspired by Kesha Bruce; 13. Doll Buddies for Charlotte; 14. Jazz Wall by Marisol; 15. Eddie, Inspired by Cindy Sherman; 16. Dakin making his handsewn soft toy

11.



12.



13.



14.



15.



16.



*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 more information contact: [beyediscovery@gmail.com](mailto:beyediscovery@gmail.com).*



# SAVE THE DATE

FUN FAIR is April 8, 11am - 3pm

**Please help make this an amazing event for all of Beye!**

Your donations and time support the PTO - which supports your kids!

We need **RAFFLE DONATIONS** (sports or event tickets, guest passes for museums or zoo, unopened toys or games, gift certificates, or a cash donation)

Do you work for a company? Ask the marketing department if they can donate something - it's great local advertising!

Are you self-employed? Be a sponsor by donating your services or cash.

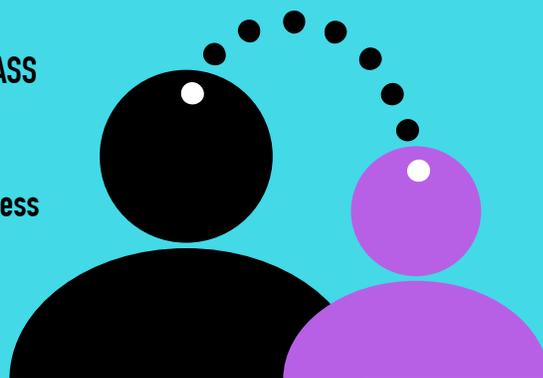
All *donations* are tax deductible and publicly thanked!

Contact: Suzanne Cronacher, [scronacher@gmail.com](mailto:scronacher@gmail.com) or Jen Kellogg, [jkellogg11@gmail.com](mailto:jkellogg11@gmail.com)

# BeyePASS Tutors Needed!

Do you love working with kids? Do you have an extra hour during the week? Then BeyePASS tutoring needs you! This program occurs during the course of a school day, once or twice a week for a total of one hour. BeyePASS tutors assist individual students with their learning needs by providing an adult tutor to work through lessons provided by the classroom teacher. The hope is that through this cooperative effort, the student will find more success in learning.

If you are interested in being a tutor, or for more information, please contact Monica Saydah ([monica@saydah.com](mailto:monica@saydah.com)) or Mr. E.



## Celebrating “Solar Love” on Valentine’s Day

It’s easy to appreciate the sun in the midst of a warm July day while playing on the shores of Lake Michigan. But, it’s not always so easy to appreciate all that the sun gives us on a cold winter day (although, I write this on yet another 60 degree+ February day!). That’s why the Green Team wanted to celebrate all things Sun with students during the heart of winter on Valentine’s Day. On February 14th, during their lunch hour, students had two opportunities to take a few minutes to reflect on and learn about what the sun offers us (and has the potential to offer us) throughout the year.

Inside, students wrote “love notes” to the sun on sun-shaped paper. Warmth, light, sunny days and getting to wear sunglasses were just some of the many ways our students found that the sun improved their lives. All the sun “love notes” are displayed in the hallway outside the main office. Please check out the solar love next time you visit the school!

Outside, students got to explore the Illinois Solar Energy Association’s Solar House and play with solar toys donated to the Beye Green Team by Code-Play-Learn. The ISEA’s Solar House includes a solar-powered CD player (and CD of sunshine music!), a solar lily pad fountain, a solar cell phone charger and a solar powered fan. This was a great opportunity for the kids to learn about how the sun can be harnessed to power the tools we use in our daily lives. These renewable energy sources, especially solar energy, are a practical and environmentally friendly alternative to carbon-intensive fuels. Kids also had fun playing and experimenting with the solar powered (no batteries needed) toys.

As always, the Green Team couldn’t have pulled off this sun-filled event without all our helpful parent volunteers, our creative and inquisitive students and supportive teachers and administrative staff. An extra thanks to Dorian Breuer for securing the Solar House and hauling it to Beye School and to Tony Creed for spending the better part of his day helping to set up and take down the solar house.

The Green Team is looking forward to providing more fun and enriching activities to Beye students during Earth Month in April!

--Submitted by Sarah Miller







# Beye Elementary

**SPRING** After School Electives

**March 6—May 26 2:55—4:10 PM**

*Wednesdays: 1:55—3:10 PM*



<b>MONDAY</b> <i>11 sessions</i> <i>No Class: 3/27</i>	<b>TUESDAY</b> <i>10 sessions</i> <i>No class: 3/28, 4/4</i>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <i>11 sessions</i> <i>No Class: 3/29, 5/3</i>	<b>THURSDAY</b> <i>11 sessions</i> <i>No class: 3/30</i>	<b>FRIDAY</b> <i>10 sessions</i> <i>No Class: 3/31, 4/14</i>
<b>Superhero Engineering Using LEGO</b> <i>By Play-Well TEKnologies</i> Grades K—2 \$213 <b>Dismissal at 4:40 PM.</b>	<b>Sticky Fingers Cooking</b> Grades K—5 \$218	<b>Chinese</b> <i>By Hai-Tao Huang</i> Grades K—5 \$132	<b>Kids' Clay</b> <i>By Terra Incognito</i> Grades K—5 \$187 <b>*Register with Terra Incognito (708-383-6228)</b>	<b>All Girls Beginner's Chess</b> <i>By Dynamic Chess</i> Grades K—5 \$151
<b>French</b> <i>By Language Stars</i> Grades K—3 \$215	<b>Taekwondo</b> <i>By Flying V Martial Arts</i> Grades K—5 \$114	<b>Dynamic Chess</b> Grades K—1 & 2—5 \$161	<b>YogaKids</b> <i>By YogaKids of Oak Park</i> Grades K—5 \$126	<b>Multisport Madness</b> <i>By Legacy Sports Camp</i> Grades K—2 \$143
			<b>Multisport Madness</b> <i>By Legacy Sports Camp</i> Grades 3—4 \$157	

*There is a 1.75% processing fee applied to all Electives class purchases.*

**Scholarships for Electives available! Deadline: Feb. 26**

*To request a scholarship, apply online at [rightatschool.com](http://rightatschool.com)*

Distribution of information by a community group in accordance with District 97 policy does not imply, directly or indirectly, that the group's program(s), event(s) and/or services is sanctioned, sponsored or endorsed by the district, the Board of Education or the superintendent.

**Register Today at [rightatschool.com](http://rightatschool.com) or call us at 855-AT-SCHOOL (855-287-2466)**

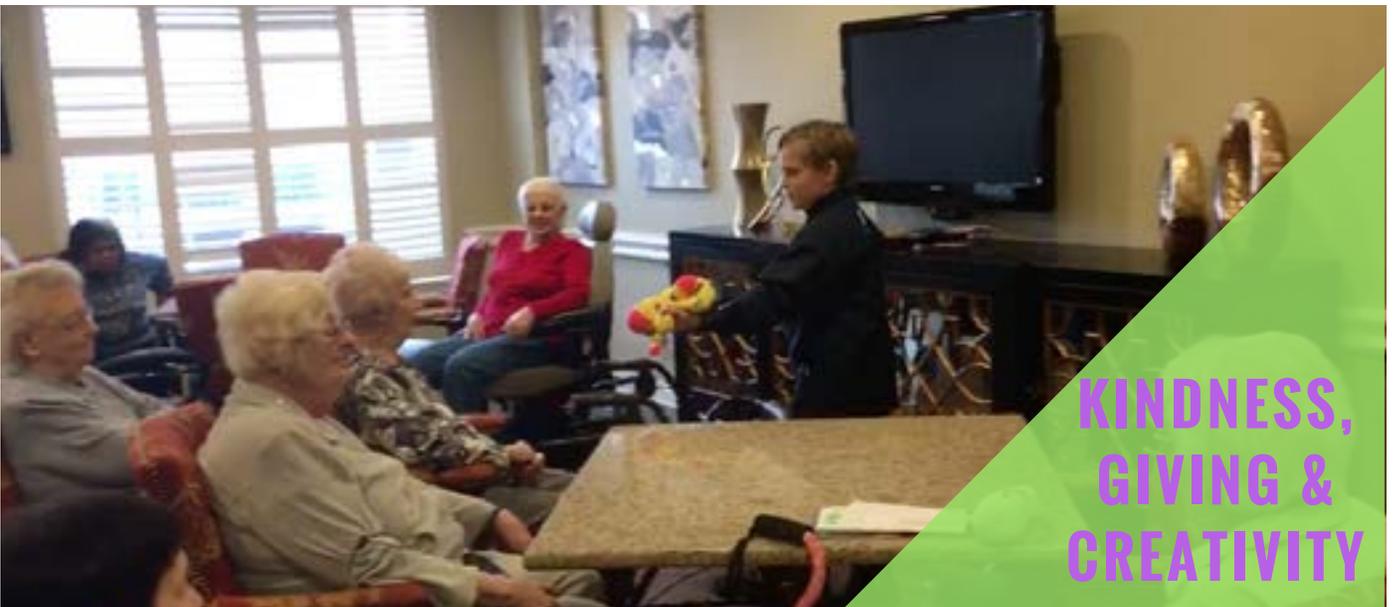


# Giving Artfully Kids and Seniors Crafting Beye-In Party (For Kids in K-5th Grade)

**Share kindness at this  
memorable intergenerational  
workshop!**

Beye kids and Belmont Village seniors will work together to create two kindness crafts. One craft is for the senior to enjoy and the other craft will be donated to a worthy cause.

(Please let your child know they will not be taking home a craft)



**KINDNESS,  
GIVING &  
CREATIVITY**

March 5, 2017  
1:30-3:30 pm  
Belmont Village  
1035 Madison Street  
Includes ample snacks and drinks  
Cost \$25/child

RSVP by Wed. March 1, 2017  
(please include age, grade level, food allergies):  
Suzanne Cronacher [scronacher@gmail.com](mailto:scronacher@gmail.com)



Hosts:  
Sitinee Sheffert, Suzanne Cronacher,  
Jennifer Alten, Sarah Rodriguez

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

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](http://www.beyeschoolpto.org). For detailed descriptions on open positions visit the volunteer page at: [www.beyeschoolpto.org/volunteer.html](http://www.beyeschoolpto.org/volunteer.html).



## ABOUT THE BEYESTANDER

Editors:  
Jennifer Alten and Sara Neuner

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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](mailto: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 [beyebytes@gmail.com](mailto:beyebytes@gmail.com).