

THE BEYESTANDER



Mr. E by Carson B.

**WILLIAM BEYE
ELEMENTARY
OCTOBER 2016**

Above graphic shows the borders of Beye's attendance areas in Oak Park, the rectangle is Beye School

October is here, but don't be scared!

There are lots of great things happening at Beye School. Take our **auditorium upgrade** for starters. For more than a year, the PTO has raised funds and made plans to improve this important space for learning, teaching and performing. Working with a number of community members, former PTO president Troy Koch helped to spearhead a planning process that is finally reaching fruition this month. In the end, we partnered with our friends and neighbors down the street at Julian and welcomed CAST director Bill McGlynn and his crew back to his alma after (yes, he was once a Bobcat) to consult, advise and work with us.

We are replacing all of the lights on the stage and, in the house, all the instruments that light the stage. We're also moving to a wireless light board that will allow control over wifi from anywhere – back stage, from the front of the house, or more traditionally from the back of the house. We're also adding easy-access controls on stage for teachers or parent volunteers to give them

access to basic lighting without using the light board at all. The icing on the cake was a series of performances of "School House Rock Jr." that CAST gave in the refurbished auditorium Oct. 20, 21, and 22. What better way to celebrate and inaugurate a new and improved performance space than with a performance?! Thanks to everyone who contributed along the way and to Troy for sticking with it to see it through!

Later this month, the School Report Card will be issued online by the state board of education. That is where our **PARCC scores** from last spring will be made public. Parents and guardians of 4th and 5th grade students received their child's score reports recently, but the school report card is the reporting mechanism for how we did collectively. The good news is that as a school, we did better than the district average in reading and math. And, as one would expect, the district as a whole did better than the state average in both subjects. We still have an ongoing challenge and opportunity to see that all students have an equal

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chance of experiencing that success, with low-income and African-American students on the whole less likely to be at or above grade level, but with many of them individually excelling.

One specific effort to give help and support where it's most needed is our retooled SIT sponsored **homework club** that will begin in November. **Cats and Dogs** is what we call our effort to bring OPRF students (they're Huskies, and thus the dogs) together with our students (they're Bobcats, and thus the cats) on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school in the library. After a phenomenal roll-out last year, we decided to start this year by inviting just the students who most need this support. Teachers have nominated students and that's the group we're starting with. A few parents, led by Maggie Testore and former Beye parent Andrea Lofgren, help organize and supervise, but it's really the dog-to-cat connections that make this program go and make it special.

As school opened, you received notice in a letter from Dr. Kelley of some ongoing **testing of water quality** at various fixtures and fountains and of closures while that testing concluded. I am happy to report that all fixtures at Beye have been cleared and have been reopened for business. Our biggest hurdle appears to have been the month or so that much of our water was off this summer while we awaited repairs for a leaking ceiling pipe outside the office. That time sitting dormant posed challenges for the first tests that were run.

After allowing the water to run and replacing two fixtures, the re-tests confirmed that all locations are safe.

We have more students with **allergies** than ever at Beye School. This makes it crucial that all classrooms and common areas be nut-free to insure that all our students are safe every day. Our most severely allergic students are at risk if they so much as touch a surface that's been contaminated. While students may bring snacks that contain nuts if they are consumed outside and they wash their hands upon re-entry, it's a better bet to send a nut-free sack on the chance that students may stay in the classroom due to weather. In the Commons at lunch, there is always a designated nut-free table where students may consume a lunch that's been prepared at home and is confirmed to be nut-free, or a school lunch which we know is always nut-free.

Mark your calendars for an institute day with no student attendance on election day, Nov. 8th, and please also note that Veterans' Day, Nov. 11th, IS an attendance day.

Please email, call or make an appointment to drop by with questions, concerns, ideas or causes for celebration. Working together there's no limit to what we can help our students to accomplish!

Sincerely,
Jonathan Ellwanger, Principal

Spirit Wear Day



WE HAVE SPIRIT

YES WE DO!

Beye Community Shows Spirit with Beye Wear and Contest

Thanks to our spirited & supportive Beye School community, the Beye Wear Drive was a roaring success! We more than doubled our initial goal and raised essential funds for our school PTO. Your Beye hoodies and tees will be delivered and distributed the first week of November. We can't wait to see all those BOBCATS sporting their school spirit!

Also, we've extended the Beye School Spirit Contest! Ask your kids:

"Who's a person at Beye School that makes your day even better? Is it a staff member? Or perhaps a classmate? Give a specific example of how they brighten your day with their words or actions. Or create a work of art that expresses your Beye School Spirit." Contest winners will get their answer and photo in the Beye-stander – and a chance to win free Beyewear!

October's Beye Spirit Contest winners are a tie!

Fifth grader Yoshi T. submitted his drawing of Ms. Robinet at someone who makes his day better.

Fourth grader Freddie D., also won for his submission about Ms. Stanton:

"Ms. Stanton always comes in laughing with a smile on her face. It felt like she trusted me when she asked me to help a new student feel welcome."

Take part in the [Beye School Spirit Contest](mailto:jendunk27@gmail.com) or ask about Beye Spirit Wear to by emailing: jendunk27@gmail.com



Beye Spirit Contest winner Freddie D.

Beye Spirit contest winner Yoshi T. submitted this drawing of Ms. Robinet

Submitted by Jennifer Lenzmeier Dunk
Beye Wear Chair



BE THE P IN PTO !!!

What a great time to be a parent, and what a great time to be part of the PTO. You may not know that as a Beye School parent, you are automatically a member of our Parent/Teacher Organization. Through the time and talents of members just like you, our children benefit from the efforts of the PTO and receive one of the best educational experiences in the state.

We have already had a great start to the school year, with an enjoyable back-to-school picnic, an informative curriculum night, a successful book fair and two super fun C'Mon Beye parties, just to name some of the activities. Our Wellness and Green Teams have been hard at work planning for the year ahead and getting volunteers in place. And, Kids Running Beye just participated in the popular Frank Lloyd Wright run!

We started the year off right with our first general PTO meeting, where we were informed about how we can get more involved in the Oak Park Educational Foundation (OPEF). As we go forward this year, we will have additional presentations as part of the PTO meetings or as part of separate PTO parent nights.

Please save the date for our next general PTO meeting scheduled for November 16th at 7pm. The main topic of the meeting will be a presentation by Principal Ellwanger where he will review the school state report card for this past school year. Now is the perfect time to volunteer your time and efforts along with the efforts of your neighbors in the Beye community to make this school even greater. Thank you in advance for volunteering your time and talents to make Beye School So Cool.

Kelly Simkowski and Stephanie Kloster De La Rosa,
Co PTO Presidents



Are you MISSING anything?
Check our LOST & FOUND!

Next time you're at Beye, please don't forget to visit the Lost & Found! With the temperature changes, we've gotten a nice selection of jackets!

-Submitted by Anna Harlan



BEYE ELEMENTARY

1

OPEF experts worked with 275 Beye kids in 2015-16 with more engaging residencies planned in 2016-17!



OPEF is a 27-year-old nonprofit delivering hands-on STEAM enrichment via six free in-school residency programs. OPEF served over 4,200 D97 students in 2015-16!

Architecture Adventure — Architects design, build and explore the man-made world with 4th/5th graders and middle schoolers.

Art Start — Artists animate the curriculum through visual and performing arts residencies with K-2nd graders.

Geared Up — 3rd-grade students engineer simple machines using specialized LEGOs; also used in the 7th grade science curriculum.

Science Alliance — Working scientists conduct experiments and lead field trips with 4th/5th graders and middle schoolers.

VEX Robotics — Tech experts work with teams of middle schoolers to design, build, program and compete with robots.

Spoken Word — Middle schoolers find and cultivate their unique voices by reading, writing and performing poetry.



1 Visual Storytelling

Karen Light worked with 2nd graders on a visual storytelling Art Start project sharing the history of the Underground Railroad.

2 The Wind From Their Sails

All 3rd graders used LEGOs to build and test simple machines. Students created and raced land yachts powered by a box fan.

3 The Famous Potato Shooter

Dr. Ben Stark demonstrated air pressure with his famous "potato shooter." The kids recorded the experiment on their iPads.

4 The Game of Probability

Roosevelt University's Dr. Melanie Pivarsky taught Ms. Robinet's 4th grade class about conditional probability in a game show format.



BASE CAMP

BASE Camp is a fee-based summer and day-off enrichment camp that also helps to support OPEF's free programs; served 1,945 Oak Park area kids in 2015-16.

Close connection with D97, but OPEF receives no tax dollars

- All programs are delivered in D97 schools, and D97 teachers help run programs, teach BASE camps, and partner to deliver in-class programs.
- Key staff, school board members, D97 parents and community members are on the board.



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.

Early Fall Highlights with Beye Discovery



This October and during the end of September, we enjoyed the beautiful fall weather, creating art outdoors and gaining inspiration from nature. We sculpted and “drew” with leaves and sticks. We also made “paintings” with grass and ink (see Brent Fogt right); and spent a week

“in the clouds”, observing, sketching, painting, and storytelling. There really is no limit to where art-making can take you, once you open the door and begin your adventure...

Visiting Artists can provide another source of adventure and inspiration as well! On Sept. 30th, Brent Fogt introduced us to his “Rain Painting” technique. He developed this process during a particularly rainy artist’s residency. Working outside, he allowed the rain to absorb into his thick paper. He then added diluted ink and handfuls of grass, clover, soil and small stones, followed by splashes of more concentrated ink. He then added diluted ink and handfuls of grass, clover, soil and small stones, followed by splashes of more concentrated ink (to vary the tonal effects and depth within



the work). Quite quickly, the natural materials displace the ink, pushing the color to the perimeter of their given shape.



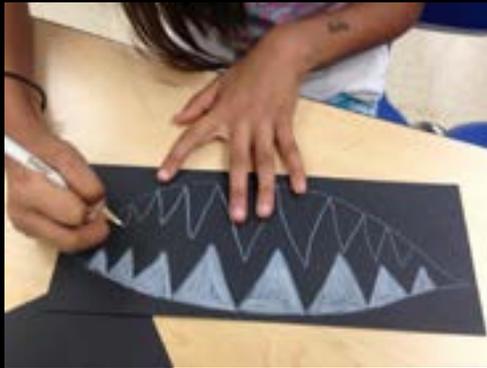
Artist Brent Fogt, Rain Painting Demonstration (top)
Zander B., Rain Painting (top left)
Morgan H., Rain painting (above)



Beye Discovery students were excited by this process and Brent set them to work, providing suggestions along the way to encourage further exploration of the technique. They created intricate and complex images, some resembling magnified snowflake crystals or aerial views of a mesmerizing terrain! These “Rain Paintings” are on display in the main hallway – we hope you will be inspired to try this technique the next time you are feeling a bit blue or bored on a rainy day! A big thank you to Brent for his visit and for sharing his process. If you would like to see more of Brent’s nature-based art, visit his website at BrentFogt.com.



We were also fortunate to host Artist Margot MacMahon this month! Margot shared the concept for her current project, to be displayed (and played with) at the “Rags to Riches” Haunted House Fundraiser for Ragdale House (one of the oldest and largest Artist Residencies in the country, in Lake Forest, IL). Her project is inspired by Alice in Wonderland’s Cheshire Cat, whose features (eyes, mouth & tail) will adorn Ragdale House during the haunted house. Margot created a 40+ foot Cheshire Cat grin, with 20 feet of tunnels, hoola hoops and other items, to create a fantastic outdoor obstacle course, designed to resemble the disappearing tail of the Cheshire Cat.



At the beginning of Margot’s visit to Beye Discovery, she read specific excerpts from Alice in Wonderland to reveal the Cheshire Cat’s disposition and its ability to disappear at will. Students then had the opportunity to “break in” Margot’s obstacle course and to redesign it to their liking. Margot’s visit provided a wonderful opportunity to share with our students how artists can contribute to their communities, with their ideas, their abilities, and with their hearts! A great big thank you to Margot, for such a fun afternoon, from the bottom of our hearts :). And an additional heartfelt thank you to Mr. Simatic, who shared the gym and some of his equipment with us, since the weather didn’t cooperate for our planned outdoor adventure.



This month, we also explored the art of Louise Bourgeois (1911 - 2010) and Alan MaGee (b. 1947). You can view our Bourgeois inspired spider web paintings on display in the main hallway, outside the Beye Office. We close this month with field trips to Trailside and the Garfield Park Conservatory (during Beye’s Parent/Teacher Conferences on Oct. 20th and 21st) and look forward to making Halloween & Day of the Dead inspired art, during the week of October 24th!

Margo, reading excerpts from Alice in Wonderland
David N., (Hula Hoop) & Morgan H. (tunnel): Margot McMahon's Cheshire Cat Obstacle Course

BEYE DISCOVERY CONTINUED....



Salma H, Storytelling Prompts



Margarita and Savannah, Louise Bourgeois Inspired Spider Web Paintings



Lucy S., Elise P., & Eva P., Storytelling Prompts

Beye Discovery is an enrichment program of the Beye PTO that offers children opportunities for exploration and growth through creative project-based learning in art and science (often nature based). It is facilitated by Jocelyne Adkins, Program Director, and Tamara Render, Teaching Assistant. For additional information, please contact Jocelyne at beye.discovery@gmail.com



Valen N., Cloud Painting (left)
Henry S., Cloud Painting (right)

Alan MaGee Inspired:
Eddie P., Love Fun (bottom left)
Lucy S., Dolphin (bottom right)





Join Beye Discovery,
Enrichment Program
of the Beye PTO for

Playful Art & The Art of Play!

Summer Adventures Camp
at Beye School, Grades K-5

For Information, contact Jocelyne at beye.discovery@gmail.com



News from the Green Team: Waste Free Wednesdays off to a Great Start

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Waste-Free Wed-microscopic
arthropod in our compost

Beye held its first Waste Free Wednesday (WFW) and eco-challenge event on September 28. Green Team volunteer Julie Padilla promoted the environmental value of zero waste lunches and assisted students in determining whether their own lunches were waste-free (i.e., contained only reusable, compostable, and/or recyclable items). Julie tallied 111 waste-free lunches representing 31 percent of the school's daily total. Students in Mrs. Robinet's and Mrs. Schweigert's classes tied for September's highest class-wide total of students with waste-free lunches (12).

In addition, more than one hundred Beye students took part in the WFW eco-challenge which focused on the process of vermicomposting (i.e., using worms to decompose food waste). Students interacted with three containers of food waste, each illustrating a successive stage in worm-aided decomposition. WFW coordinator, Scott Smith, also treated students to a video of squirming nematodes, crawling arthropods and other microorganisms common in compost under 200x magnification. Scott shot the video himself using a digital camera attached to a microscope.

See if you know the answer to the September 2016 WFW eco-challenge quiz:

Question: What percentage of food waste is composted in the United States?

Answer: 3%. From the U.S. EPA, "Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling and Disposal in the United States: Tables and Figures for 2010," www.epa.gov/osw/nonhaz/municipal/pubs/2010_MSW_Tables_and_Figures_508.pdf

Submitted by Beye WFW coordinator Scott Smith



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News from the Green Team: Beye Green Club: Outdoor Explorers

Fifteen Beye 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students joined Beye Green Club in September and voted to call themselves the Outdoor Explorers. Meeting twice a month, the Explorers will watch and listen for nature right around Oak Park, especially around the one square mile area of Beye School.

Using all six of their senses (the sixth one being the “heart”), the Green Club will observe changes in trees, birds, other wildlife, and nature over the course of the year, while having tons of fun playing games, exploring – maybe even a side trip to Cheney Mansion or Thatcher Woods. Look for a picture next month of our Cherokee Nation-inspired Talking Stick and the honor that is it to hold the attention of all those around. If any student, 3rd-5th grade, is still interested in being an Explorer, please contact Laura Derks at lcderks@gmail.com.

Submitted by Beye Club leader, Laura Derks

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



ABOUT THE BEYESTANDER

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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.

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.