

## Halloween Parade



The annual Halloween Parade took students on a two-block tour from Beye School to the Heritage House and back to the school for classroom celebrations.

-Photos contributed by Martin Ho

# NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL...THE ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE



**November** is always a favorite month of mine. It's chock-full of opportunities to transition, to pause and to ponder. That first trimester? Done! The warmth of summer and early fall? Gone! The couple of beautiful maple trees on our property that blaze red to announce that winter is coming? Now bare! Thanksgiving, with a few days off to allow time for family and feasting? Upon us! As November closes, my own goal is always to see how long I can hang on to the attitude of gratitude that most of us can muster for turkey day. Can I see strengths, opportunities and blessings, even when there is no holiday set aside to nudge me? I hope we can collectively stay stuck on being thankful, since we always have much to give thanks for. The research says that gratitude can lift our spirits and improve our relationships. Wouldn't that be a nice gift to ourselves and the people around us?!

We have recently restarted two familiar after-school programs: **BOOST and Cats & Dogs Homework Club**. Mr. Gray organizes BOOST (that's Building On Our Strengths Together). They meet Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and focus on providing additional math or language arts supports for students whose MAP scores indicated a need. Mrs. Logan and Ms. Bauman assist. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, former Beye parent Maggie Testore leads more than 50 student volunteers from OPRF High School as they partner with our students in grades K–5. The high-schoolers (they're Huskies, thus the dogs) and our kids (they're Bobcats, so there's your cats) work side by side to complete homework, but as importantly, to commit to goal-setting, effective effort and celebrations of success. In matching students to the right program, we ask teachers to help us divine who needs what and how they might be best served. Together we're serving more than 50 students with these additional academic supports.

Yes, I will predictably take this opportunity to implore you to send your child **dressed for the weather** every single day! It might seem obvious, but you'd be surprised by the various states of outdoor readiness we see from students each day. At Beye, we go out any time we can—which means we will go out if it's sprinkling, we will go out if it's windy, and we will go out if it's cold, but not dangerously so. A hat, a scarf, mittens or insulated gloves, layers, and—for the snowy days—boots and snow pants should be standard equipment. At our house we like to say there's no bad weather, only bad gear, so get the right gear here daily and help your little person enjoy winter and all its wonder each and every day!

We have a very special day planned for **Saturday, January 12**, as two guest presenters join us for a **two-part parent workshop**. In the morning Jackie Ross from Equip for Equality will help people “Be a Prepared Parent.” All parents can benefit from understanding special education more fully, and Jackie helps demystify the processes and points out what rights are guaranteed under IDEA. After we have lunch, Katie Trathen, a licensed clinical social worker will present. Do you sometimes find your child to be “explosive” or “challenging”? Katie will help bring peace by sharing Ross Greene's process for identifying a child's lagging skills, working to improve those skills, and working with your child toward collaborative and proactive solutions. We hope you'll join us!

**This month** we had vision screenings; we hosted the Oak Park Education Foundation's Super Steam Saturday open house; we had performances for the entire school by Opera for the Young of “Superstorm” starring our 3rd graders; we had a slime-making C'Mon Beye party; and we held the Turkey Trot. Thanks to the PTO, the faculty and the custodians who work together to pull off these special events.

As always, I welcome you to email, call or make an appointment to stop by with your questions, concerns, ideas and causes for celebration. I'll close as I opened, by focusing on saying thank you. **Thanks** for reading this column! **Thanks** for supporting your school, your child, your teacher and your principal! **Thanks** for looking out for all the children, not just your own. **Thanks** for finding ways to be involved. **Thanks** for the many kind words and well wishes as I shared the announcement of my retirement in June of 2020. **Thanks** for making Beye School so cool!

Sincerely,  
Jonathan Ellwanger, Principal

# BEYE PTO...WE HOPE YOUR THANKSGIVING WAS FILLED WITH JOY



<http://www.beyeschoolpto.org>

Dear Beye Families,

Where has the time gone? November came and went in no time. It was another busy month. We hope you had meaningful and productive conferences with your child(ren)'s teachers. Conferences will take place again at the end of January, and the PTO will be hosting a Morning Math Meet Up a few weeks later, so be on the lookout for future announcements.

You might have read the public announcement of Mr. E.'s intent to retire at the end of next school year. In the year to come, there will be more information and opportunities to participate in the selection of a new principal and to prepare for Mr. E.'s departure. We are just starting to plan for commemorating his service to the Beye School community. If you want to participate in the planning process, you can let us know by emailing us at [presidents@beyeschoolpto.org](mailto:presidents@beyeschoolpto.org).

We hope you had a happy and healthy Thanksgiving!  
Denise Franta and Deborah Levine, Co-Presidents, Beye PTO

## HALLOWEEN EXTRAVAGANZA AND SLIME-MAKING COMPETITION



# GET INVOLVED! UPCOMING BEYE SCHOOL EVENTS!

## Looking to get involved with the PTO?

We need someone to coordinate and host the end-of-school picnic, scheduled for May 30, from 5–8 p.m. We have an excellent format already planned and ready to go, we just need someone to execute on it. We also need someone to handle the fundraising annual appeal and direct donations. Both positions are easy to manage via technology, and don't require attending meetings or a substantial time commitment. Please email [beyefundraising@gmail.com](mailto:beyefundraising@gmail.com) if you are interested!

- Join us for a fun family bowling party or drop the kids off and go shopping! Saturday, December 1, 4–6 pm. Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beye-bowling-party-family-event-tickets-50384965789>
- Join us for a cookie exchange, and leave with all the cookies you need for the holidays! Saturday, December 8, 3–5 p.m. Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cookie-exchange-family-event-tickets-50384907615>

Not sure what a Beye-in is or if you want to attend one? Check out photos on previous page from the recent Halloween Extravaganza, slime-making competition, and Indian cooking demonstration (see photos below).



# BEYE DISCOVERY



## BEYE PTO'S AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM WITH A FOCUS ON ART AND SCIENCE

<http://www.beyeschoolpto.org/beye-discovery.html>  
[beye.discovery@gmail.com](mailto:beye.discovery@gmail.com)

### Fall Is Delightfully Fun for Beye Discovery

We are big fans of Halloween, and this year our students designed a freestanding, two-story haunted house with cardboard boxes. It was an amazing team effort, featuring a frightful kitchen pantry with “ghost toast” and “worm pizza,” a mad scientist’s lab, an electrical room and a bedroom with a sleepy skeleton. Also at home were a witch, a zombie, a vampire, Frankenstein, and a family of ghosts. Outside the house, the haunting hoot of two owls warned visitors as a black cat ran along the old picket fence. Whooo! Whooo! Other Halloween fun included completing a scavenger hunt along Harvey and Lombard, sewing Halloween characters, and trick-or-treating on Halloween (of course)!!!

The half-days and teacher institute day gave us the opportunity to embark on a few field trips to Trailside Museum of Natural History and Garfield Park Conservatory. Both have outdoor play areas, fostering hours of imaginative play! At Trailside, we enjoyed a fabulous hike. One group was excited to find a heron and another group was awestruck by a family of deer who were not fearful and quite close! Students also found deer tracks and some deer scat. At the Field Museum, highlights included the Ancient Egypt, “Evolving Planet,” and Pawnee Lodge exhibits. We thoroughly enjoyed learning about the many artifacts in the Pawnee Lodge, as well as cultural traditions, thanks to a very knowledgeable museum docent!!!

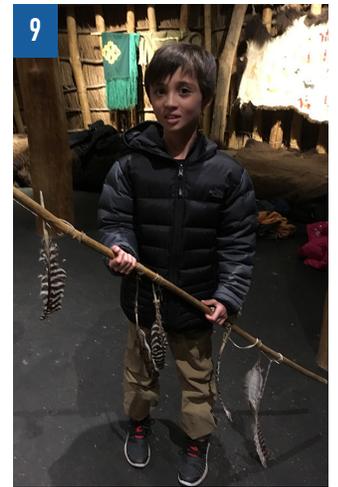
November ushers in the “Season of Giving,” and each year Beye Discovery participates in a variety of activities to be of service to others. We were excited to contribute to Green Team’s St. Jude’s Lego Fundraiser by creating 51 miniature drawings to insert inside the donated Lego frames for children at Hephzibah House. In the next few weeks, we will also make ornaments for the preschoolers who visit the Beye playground, create dog toys for the Animal Care League, and participate in an additional Lego fundraiser, creating ornaments with Legos. For each ornament shared on social media, Lego will donate a Lego kit to a child in need.

*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. It is facilitated by Jocelyne Adkins, Program Director, and Gerri Gibson, Teaching Assistant. For questions about Beye Discovery please contact Jocelyne at: [beye.discovery@gmail.com](mailto:beye.discovery@gmail.com).*

Haunted Houses: left: Viviana, Ascencion, and Maya; center: William, David, and Samina; right: William

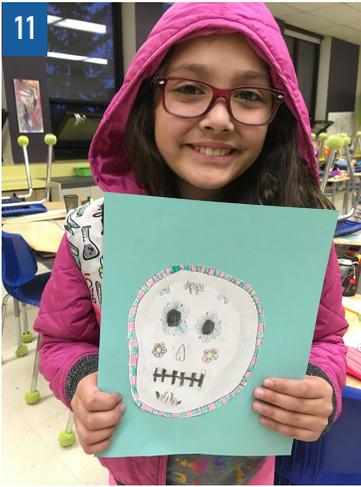


# BEYE DISCOVERY FIELD TRIPS



1. Ascencion, Aaliyah, and Elise at Scavenger Hunt; 2. Charlotte, Ella, and Lucinda at Garfield Park Conservatory; 3. Dakin with magnifying glass, Trailside Field Trip; 4. Miguel, Zachary, and William at Garfield Park Conservatory; 5. Valen, Mira, and Maya, Pawnee Lodge Field Museum 6. Morgan and William Halloween; 7. Teacher Institute Day at Field Museum; 8. Deer Trailside Field Trip; 9. Zachary, Pawnee Lodge Field Museum 10. Karlo and Aaliyah at Scavenger Hunt

# BEYE DISCOVERY ARTWORK



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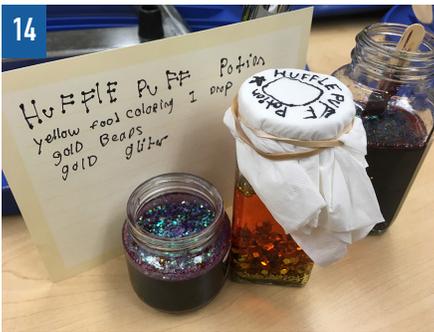


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11. Viviana, Day of the Dead; 12. Rafa and Ascencion, Haunted House; 13. Dylan, Scavenger Hunt; 14. Lucinda and Viviana, Halloween Potions, 15. Sonia, Pirate Toy



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16. Maya, Haunted House; 17. Elise, Owl; 18. Lucy, Mekhi, and Miguel, Halloween; 19. Ella, Fall Leaf Painting



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# OPERA FOR THE YOUNG PRESENTS SUPER STORM

Opera for the Young (OFTY) brings live, professional opera to elementary school audiences with annual fall and spring tours. Students appear onstage in chorus and cameo roles, performing for their peers right alongside professional artists. Thanks to our PTO, Opera for the Young has been visiting Beye for 16 years!

On November 5, our students enjoyed the original production Super Storm, a new opera created by Opera for the Young with young audiences in mind. The lively production showcased individuality and cooperation, with 16 students joining professionals on stage to play abandoned cats and dogs hiding out in the same cave during bad weather.

For more information on Opera for the Young visit [www.ofty.org](http://www.ofty.org)



## BEYE MUSICIANS PARTICIPATE IN FIRST ILMEA MUSIC FESTIVAL



*The participating students pictured are: (top row, from left) Savannah Padilla, Lucy Wagemann, Ian Dandurand, Clarabella Croisant; (bottom row, from left) Arwa Abulfotooh, Julia Dormanen, Noah George.*

Congratulations to our seven Beye students who participated in the first Illinois Music Educators' Association (ILMEA) District I Elementary General Music Festival on Saturday, October 27!

Students could participate in one of four ensembles: Chorus, Ukulele, Drum Circle, and Orff Ensemble.

This was the first year that there was an elementary festival, and we are looking forward to participating with even more D97 students next year! For more information, contact Gabrielle Rosenblum at [grosenblum@op97.org](mailto:grosenblum@op97.org).

# KIDS RUNNING BEYE AT FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT RACES

Beye School had a strong presence on October 21 at the Frank Lloyd Wright Races, with 14 Kids Running Beye students participating.



# BEYE GREEN TEAM LEGO FUNDRAISER



## Thanks for Making the Beye Green Team Lego Fundraiser a Huge Success!

A round of applause for the generous donors to our Lego picture frame fundraiser! The fundraiser benefiting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and local children's charities was a huge success, thanks to many Beye School and community donors and volunteers. Oak Park and River Forest community members donated pounds of used and new Lego pieces and Beye volunteers sorted them into picture-frame kits. The Lego donations allowed every penny of direct donations to benefit St. Jude. The fundraiser was scheduled to run for two months, and we surpassed our goal in only two weeks, with kits selling out and the program raising \$680 for St. Jude, plus \$50 in employer-matched donations.

Donors opted to give nearly two-thirds of the Lego kits to children living in Hephzibah House and in foster care and to children participating in the Beye Backpack program. Students and Beye Discovery's Jocelyne Adkins provided tiny, wallet-size drawings of winter scenes for the Hephzibah Lego kits (see photo). Thank you to all the donors and volunteers who made the fundraiser a success and brought a smile to many kids' faces!

## "Beye" the Numbers Math Challenge

- 7,344 Lego pieces = 136 kits x \_\_\_\_\_ pieces in each kit
- \$680 in direct donations + \$50 in employer-matching = \$\_\_\_\_\_ total to St. Jude
- 60 kits to Hephzibah + \_\_\_\_\_ to Beye Backpack = 83 kits given to children's charities
- 1.25 pages x 136 Lego kits = \_\_\_\_\_ pieces of scratch paper reused for kits
- 49 drawings by kids + 2 drawings by Mrs. Adkins = \_\_\_\_\_ tiny drawings by Beye Discovery

**Total in All: 1 Successful Fundraiser!**

Beye students: Submit your math challenge answers to [beyelego@gmail.com](mailto:beyelego@gmail.com) and get entered into a drawing for a Lego minifigure! Ten minifigures will be given away to students submitting correct answers!

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Green Team's Beye Lego encourages you to use and reuse your Lego pieces. Send photos and description of your creation to [beyelego@gmail.com](mailto:beyelego@gmail.com) to be featured in the next Beyelines!

# BEYE LEGO SERVICE PROJECT AND BUILDER OF THE MONTH

## Beye Students: Your Lego Skills Needed for Service Project with Local Senior Citizens!

Beye students are invited to make **decorative and functional Lego creations** with local senior citizens, on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. (There is no school that day for an Institute Day.)

Students and senior citizens at Oak Park Township Senior Services, 130 S. Oak Park Ave., will work together to make eyeglass holders, coin dishes, picture frames, and more. The Lego creations will be given to the seniors.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to participate with their children. Please look for registration information in Spring 2019, or contact Lauren MacGregor and Cynthia Greenberg at [beyelego@gmail.com](mailto:beyelego@gmail.com).

## Beye Lego Builder of the Month



### Salma: Apartment Pencil Holder

Salma has built a useful pencil holder featuring:

- A two-story apartment with storage compartments and staircase
- A second-floor entry with doormat and porch light
- A car parking pad with moveable gate that folds down into a ramp

# VOLUNTEER AT BEYE

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) or [www.beyeschoolpto.org/volunteer.html](http://www.beyeschoolpto.org/volunteer.html).

## CONNECT WITH US



[www.op97.org/beye](http://www.op97.org/beye)



Beye School Families



Mr E: @BeyeTheWay

## ABOUT BEYELINES

The Beyelines is an online and hard copy 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 [beyelines@beyeschoolpto.org](mailto:beyelines@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).

### Editors:

Emily Dagostino, Sean Flynn, and Joan Dyer

### Graphic Designers:

Blake and Lindy Novotny

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GETTING A BACKGROUND CHECK

**If you want to chaperone a field trip or volunteer during a classroom or school activity where you will not be supervised by a staff member, a one-time background check is required.**

Make an appointment online and bring your driver's license or state ID along with you. Results take about seven to 10 business days, and sometimes longer, so plan accordingly.

*Here's what you need to know:*

### Q: WHERE DO I GO?

A: Administration Building: 260 Madison St, Oak Park, IL

### Q: WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING?

A: Please bring your current driver's license or state ID.

### Q: WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

A: Your fingerprints will be scanned and a snapshot will be taken to submit to the Illinois State Police (ISP) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

### Q: DO I NEED TO DO THIS EVERY YEAR?

A: No. If you believe you have been fingerprinted with District 97 before, please email (preferred) Ellen McKay at [hr@op97.org](mailto:hr@op97.org) or call 708-524-3000 to inquire if you are already in the system.

### Q: WHEN SHOULD I BE FINGERPRINTED?

A: Any parent/guardian that will attend a field trip or will not be su-

pervised by a District 97 staff member during a classroom/school activity will need to be fingerprinted. A supervised volunteer (classroom/school activity) will have a background check conducted.

### Q: HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

A: The fingerprinting itself takes less than 15 minutes. Once the information is transmitted, results are usually returned within seven to 10 business days, sometimes longer; so please plan accordingly. FINGERPRINT RESULTS CAN NOT BE EXPEDITED. Should there be an issue with your prints (i.e., rejection due to low image), you will be notified and required to come back into the district office to be reprinted.

### Q: DO I NEED AN APPOINTMENT?

A: Yes. (No walk-ins).

### Q: WHOM SHOULD I CONTACT IF I HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

A: If you have additional questions, please email Ellen McKay at [hr@op97.org](mailto:hr@op97.org). Please allow 24 to 48 hours for a response.