

August 20, 2018, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Q: Is it mandatory that backpacks stay in the lockers all day?**

A: Mrs. Weidner: Yes. If everyone brings their backpacks to class it creates a tripping hazard as there isn't a place for them to put their backpacks in class.

**Q: I was thinking about getting my daughter started with Google Calendar for assignments, but I don't know how often she has her Chromebook with her during the day. Does she have it all the time?**

A: Mrs. Weidner: She's probably going to have it in most of her classes. Most teachers have a system where at the beginning of class, even if they are not going to be using the Chromebooks that day, teachers will ask the kids to look at the assignment board for homework in Google Classroom on their Chromebooks. That would be an appropriate time for your daughter to use Google Classroom [calendar].

**Q: Is there a time when students will have a club fair, since the one on curriculum night is intended only for parents?**

A: Mrs. Weidner: During one of our Bruin enrichment periods before the end of the month, we will send out information to the kids about what clubs are available. We are still finalizing those lists. Most of our clubs won't start until, at the earliest, September.

**Q: What is Brain Pop?**

A: Mrs. Weidner: Brain Pop is a school wide digital subscription that a lot of our teachers use. The PTO for the last several years has funded this. It is a tool that teachers can use for reteaching and provides digital activities and lessons. It reinforces learning in the classroom. Our teachers like it and it is widely requested and we have now made it a line item in our [school] budget.

**Q: What is Newsela?**

A: Mrs. Weidner: Newsela is a language arts resource. It has different articles, nonfiction mostly. Teachers can choose articles for students based on Lexile levels, and it gives them opportunities to read and practice comprehension.

**Discussion on PTO income & student involvement:**

A PTO member in attendance asked questions regarding the PTO budget, PTO income, and involvement of students in fundraising events. The discussion included topics involving other school programs that fundraise, comparisons from other school parent teacher organizations to the BMS PTO, and ways that the BMS PTO could involve students in fundraising such as door-to-door marketing and other projects such as selling tickets

The PTO Board members along with Ms. Weidner spoke about how other groups at BMS and at BHS have their own fundraising such as the Blacksburg Athletic Club, band, or DECA. Linwood Hudson mentioned that we have expanded fundraising options, such as adding the Belk fundraiser, and that the fundraising committee is open to new volunteers. Kristy Hudson noted that many children have extra curricular activities to be considerate of. Robin Sanborn noted that many families are resistant to having their children go door-to-door. Kela Rosario mentioned that the children will be involved with the MLK day of service and that we are always brainstorming new ideas to get the student organization involved with the PTO.