
Al-Bayan Bilingual School Parent-Teacher Association

2017-2019

A Celebration of Achievement



Introduction

During their term, the current PTA has taken a proactive role within the school community, engaged in a various range of activities throughout the school year that serve students, parents and teachers while emphasizing each party's role within the school community. The purpose of these activities have consistently remained the same: to create and foster a strong sense of school spirit, to engage with the larger community, and to raise funds that will serve the students of BBS through various activities during the year, in addition to a legacy project that is dedicated to the school and presented by the PTA at the end of its 2017-2019 term.

Achievements

At the beginning of each school year, we worked hard to organize a special welcome for parents, teachers and students. Ranging from enticing “Back to School” decorations, music and characters in costume, we hoped to make the back to school process as seamless as possible, especially for our younger students. Informative leaflets were provided for parents at the start of each school year, with tips on how to pack a healthy lunchbox, how to know if your child’s backpack is the correct weight for their size and frame, and other important information. Free frozen yoghurt was distributed during recess to our MS and HS school students to celebrate the beginning of the school year. In addition, the PTA has also provided a table with snacks, coffee and refreshments during each Back to School week, which extended throughout Back to School Night where parents are invited to visit classrooms and meet their children’s teachers. The results of this activity have been two-fold; the PTA starts the year’s activities in a strong fashion, and we succeed in getting our students, teachers and parents excited for the new school year. Also, a Bulletin Board Competition was arranged for teachers, where winners were announced for the most attractive bulletin board in order to encourage creativity at the beginning of the year, and a “Healthy Happy Lunchboxes Workshop” was held for parents.



By creating a brand for the PTA, through the introduction of a tailor-made logo, this brand was further solidified through social media channels. Dedicated PTA Instagram and SnapChat accounts were launched, promoting school activities as well as providing coverage for all PTA activities. Throughout the 2017-2019 term, the PTA consistently contributed to the school’s newsletters with an update of activities and events.



A range of informative talks, workshops and seminars were organized by the PTA on a multitude of issues that are relevant to our community. Talks ranged from an interactive panel for students and parents on how to manage fasting during exam week, and understanding severe allergic reactions and Epi-Pen administration training. Other talks addressed issues such as how to keep students safe in the digital age, and ways for parents to support their children as they learn how to read.

The PTA has also been diligent in its efforts to work hand in hand with the school to create awareness against the dangers of bullying and ways to stop bullying at BBS. As part of a PTA-led initiative, a campaign titled “Hand in Hand, Together We Stand”, the PTA organized talks on how to recognize and deal with cyber bullying, the legal implications of bullying, and a specific talk was organized for teachers that addressed ways to address bullying in the classroom.



The PTA invited a certified drama therapist to visit the school on several occasions to hold interactive sessions for students and teachers, highlighting the dangers of bullying. Speakers from the Ministry of Interior, lawyers and counselors were also invited to address the student body.

Mother's Day has been a great deal of fun for the PTA. On both occasions during the PTA's term, Mother's Day celebrations included live music, decorations, food and refreshments for mothers and for everyone celebrating their mothers. A floral backdrop on both occasions allowed students, parents and faculty to take memorable photographs to share with loved ones and family. A mother-daughter flower arranging workshop was also held as a token of appreciation to our special mothers within the BBS community. Raffles and gifts were distributed to both teachers and mothers, and art activities were held for students.



It has been a huge source of pleasure for the PTA to be invited to take part in school-led initiatives, where the PTA offers to the community its support to ensure a strong outcome. An example of such a collaboration is the introduction of Health Week, where the PTA organized healthy snacks and fresh fruit deliveries to the school for all the students to enjoy, as well as scheduled several speakers who shared their knowledge with students on healthy eating, organic foods, fitness, well-being and overall health. The PTA has also enjoyed collaborating with the school on Math Night, which was also introduced during the PTA's term. The idea was warmly received, and the final outcome was a huge success. The PTA's contribution during Math Night included giveaways, math games, refreshment and snack vendors, and Math Night light box signage. The PTA is pleased to have been able to take part in these two activities that were new initiatives, allowing the PTA to help build what will hopefully be an annual tradition.



The PTA has also had an active role in other activities, such as the annual support staff event; it is always an honor to be able to say thank you to all the hard work and kindness that is given to our students every day by these very important members of our community. The PTA has also been given the task of distributing to those in need the Lost and Found items in the school that have not been collected by students. A full-fledged campaign was also launched by the PTA to collect school supplies for students in the wider community who are in need of new backpacks, notebooks and school supplies. These items were distributed by the PTA to



families in need in Kuwait as part of the PTA's community outreach service.

I Love to Read Week at the Elementary School has also been an engaging activity for the PTA during its current term. From providing live entertainment in the form of a marching band, to organizing book vendors that offer a range of titles for students and their parents to purchase, the PTA is glad to have been able to play a role in this exciting event. Book sales were also organized at the Nursery, Middle School and High School levels, all in effort to encourage students to read and engage their passion for knowledge. Characters in costume were invited by the PTA during morning routine to greet our younger students, and competitions for held for teachers who were best dressed as book characters. To celebrate reading, the PTA also launched the BBS Book Club for Parents, which met for several times to discuss new releases as well as well-loved classics.



In addition, the current PTA oversaw the design, sale and distribution of Sports Day t-shirts during both years of its term in office. This allowed classes the opportunity to have unified t-shirts delivered to them ahead of the big day, and ensured that the entire student body would be unified with varying colors representing different grades and classes.



Teacher Appreciation Day was another PTA initiative where teachers and staff were recognized for their hard work and dedication to the BBS community. A lunch with live entertainment and games was organized at a five-star hotel, where all teachers were invited to attend. It was a pleasure to be able to take time out to recognize all that these special teachers do and the hard work that they exert for the well-being of our students and the wider BBS community. Sponsored gifts and flowers were distributed to teachers on this day.



The arts have also been a prime focus of the PTA during this term, with buddy benches painted as part of anti-bullying awareness month, and friendship tires also painted and decorated to accentuate the importance of being a unified school body. Kindness stones emphasized the same concept with the lower-level students, and they were then set in resin to decorate the lawn opposite the KG area. The PTA has also had the privilege of contributing as a sponsor to the school's annual Art Show, which has been a huge success each year. Also, the PTA worked closely with the Elementary School and Middle School administrations to



beautify their building, upholding the belief that strong aesthetics will encourage, motivate and energize students.

The PTA was also activity involved in several Middle School committees, working closely with teachers and administration to address issues such as behavior, leadership and curriculum. By inviting the PTA to work alongside the school on such issues is a strong affirmation of the critical role that the PTA plays as an active stakeholder in the BBS community.

While maintaining that the health and well-being of our students remains at the top of our priorities, the PTA worked closely with the school to measure canteen satisfaction and upgrade the services offered at the school canteen. As a result, new offerings were presented to the school, with the hope that students, teachers and parents are fully satisfied with the menu available and that it is in line with health and nutrition standards for school-age children.

The PTA has also made the purchase of school supplies easier for parents, by providing ready-made bags of supplies that are offered for sale with report card pick-up. Organized by grade, and as per the school's specific requirements per level, the PTA purchased the required items and organized them into packages. The initiative was a huge success and well-received by parents.



Last of all, the PTA National Day Carnival, held in February 2018 and February 2019, was an incredible event that was enjoyed by everyone who attended. The PTA used the services of one of the best event planning companies in Kuwait to create an event that was filled with entertainment, food, games, and live shows, there was something for everyone that visited. With top-level sponsors and vendors, as well as popular entertainers, the all-day event attracted many visitors from the BBS community and beyond, welcoming everyone to enjoy their day and the entertainment provided.



Legacy Project

At the close of the current term, the PTA has decided that its legacy project must be something that is dedicated to the benefit of the entire BBS community. It is also important that the project is sustainable, one that can be used by generation after generation.

Inasmuch, the legacy project will be the renovation and upgrade of the MakerSpace. Once completed by September 2019, the area will be the most up-to-date MakerSpace in Kuwait, offering the BBS community a place to create, innovate and explore their interests. It will include tools and equipment to design, build and create a variety of things. With both an indoor and outdoor space, the MakerSpace will include a workshop, an area for electronics and tinkering, another focused on science and engineering, and a robotics / coding space as well. There will also be a fully-equipped sewing section.

It is a pleasure to be able to give back to the BBS community through this legacy project, and we hope that the MakerSpace will continue to be a place where ideas come to life and dreams are manifested.

Conclusion

While this is just a brief summary of the PTA's initiatives during its 2017-2019 term in office, it is representative of the collective efforts of a hard-working and dedicated team of parents and teachers that have tirelessly worked to make the BBS community an active and exciting place to be.

As this PTA hands the torch over to a the next group of dedicated parents and teachers, thanks and gratitude is extended to the BBS community for the support and trust it has extended to the PTA throughout the past two years. We share our success with you.



Images from the PTA 2017-2019 term.

Al-Bayan Bilingual School Parent-Teacher Association, 2017-2019

Parents

Mai Khalaf
Noha Al-Awadi
Aljazi Al-Mishwat
Najwa Al-Bisher
Sarah Al-Wazzan
Suleiman Al-Qenaie

Teachers

Amber Saphyre
Wafaa Al-Zubaidi
Amineh Khoei
Suha Abu Dawoud
Maha Saleh
Fidaa Al-Tayeh
Aisha Al-Saad