

THE BALLER BEAR PRINT

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Helen Baller Elementary
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WELCOME BACK FROM MR. MOSS

Here it is folks the first news-letter of school year 2009-2010. For me it just seems amazing we're already to 2010. Wasn't it just yesterday everyone was freaking out about the computer crashes at the turn of 2000? This year is my 9th at Helen Baller with that comes my first year in Helen Baller version 2.0. I know a large number of you have been following the tear down of the old Baller. It was amazing to see those big track hoes work their way through the school, bricks crumbling, walls falling, wires and plumbing flying every which way. I was told over a 100 or so bricks were given out as the work progressed. We saved several bricks and they will be set in benches at the entrance as well as part of the eastside playground. Finally, the contractor dumped several loads of bricks for a future give-away time.

Well, let's get down to the specifics regarding open house, opening day and school schedules. Open house is scheduled for August 31st @ 4 PM. Bring your appetites, school supplies and checkbook/cash that night. To help you plan for the evening please write separate checks for planners, school lunches and PTA purchases. Student planners are \$5 again this year. As for school lunches any amount can be credited to your child's lunch debit account. PTA membership is \$8 for a single and \$15 for a family. New school wear will not be available until the end of September; we have to design it first, any ideas? This year, hoping to accommodate families with kids in both places, we combined evening open house efforts with Liberty. We have your dinner and they have your dessert. As usual this will be a

great time to meet your child's teacher/s and do some exploring of the new "digs".

The first day of school is scheduled for September 2nd. The first bell is at 9 AM and the tardy bell is 9:05, the end of the day is 3:30. This is the exact same schedule as last year. The first day of school will be quite a day and we could use some additional help with meeting, greeting and directing. Please call or email me if you'd like to join the Baller staff during those first couple of days. Moving from a 27,000 square foot facility to a 67,000 square foot one is bound to be a bit intimidating for some. After all this is a new place for everyone not just the newbies.

For the last two years we have had a modified drop off area. Now that we have a new, off Garfield St., parking lot this process will be much safer and even more convenient. Like the last two years we will again issue pickup passes for families that use the drop off area a minimum of 3 times per week. The application forms will be available during open house and in the school office afterwards. Even though this area is much larger and easier to access I still encourage everyone to go "GREEN" (ok, I jumped on the green bandwagon too), and save gas as well as dollars by having your child ride on one of our school buses. Here are some guidelines to follow while using the drop off area:

- Enter the parking lot through the south entrance (it's one-way) and proceed to the curb in front of the main school entrance, pull up as far as possible.
- Dropping your kids, be sure to say

your goodbyes, kisses etc. before hand and immediately pull away (remember to do a D&R: Dump and Run)

- Please be alert when pulling from the curb.
- Exit toward the north.

If you are walking your kids into the school then use the many parking spaces in the lot and on Garfield St.. Lastly, the lone Street parking lot and drive through is for buses only. Please use the Garfield St. only.

The PTA is looking for volunteers for a number of jobs for this year, in particular the grand Open House/ Carnival on the 2nd of October. Please take a moment and consider giving some of your time. The Helen Baller PTA's major fundraiser is a **one time** payment of \$45 per family. This type of fundraising has been a much more palatable way to raise needed funds. It really beats the heck out of harassing friends and family. Finally, be a part of the Baller family and join today.

We have a number of new teaching staff and assignment changes this year. Our new staff is: 1st grade Danielle Wegener, and special education staff, Annie Oats and Denise Person. Staff moving to a new grade level or changing assignments are: 1st grade Kathy Scurrah, 2nd grade Julie Andros, 3rd grade, Pam Gospe, 4th grade Ed Watson and 5th grade Shelly Houle.

That's it from me; hope everyone is as excited about this new year as I am. See you soon,

Jerry

BACK-TO-SCHOOL FAMILY NIGHT

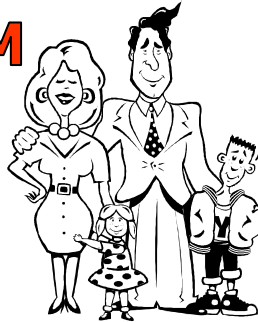
Monday August 31, 2009

4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

FEATURING:



SALAD and DRINKS too!



Sponsored by your Helen Baller PTA!

Bring your family, have dinner and meet your teacher! It's a wonderful opportunity to see your old friends and to make new ones - find your classroom and drop off your supplies. We hope to see you and your family there!

Your PTA Be A Part Of It

Joining the PTA does NOT commit you to anything. It gives you a voice in decisions involving Helen Baller. Become a member and let your voice be heard. It's a great way to be involved in your child's school and all the events that take place!
Stop by the PTA Membership Table at Back-to-School night and sign up.
 \$8.00 Individual - \$15.00 Family



BALLER BEAR SPIRIT WEAR

If you have any great ideas for the new spirit wear, speak up! Available end of September.

Check out the fundraising table at Back-to-School Night for information on all the programs the PTA sponsors. **We do it for the KIDS!**



ENS The emergency notification system, titled US Netcom Notification Service, was implemented last year. It will send a recorded message via home phone, cell phone and e-mail to every parent in the district, within minutes when school is cancelled or late; or to groups of parents when an athletic event is cancelled; or to remind families of important events.

PTA PACKET Watch for this packet to come home with students on the first Friday of school, September 4. It will contain many important papers for parents to fill out. Please complete and return papers in their attached envelopes to the school as soon as possible. Thanks!

PTA Membership & Student Directory

You will find a form in your back-to-school packet which will ask you to fill out information about you and your child too. The info is put into a private (HB use only) directory for you to utilize throughout the year. Say your child would like to phone a friend for a play-date or perhaps a homework assignment. It's also a way to send birthday invitations and contact parents for class parties and teacher's requests. You can use it as a resource for a mom's name or a dad's email address...it is our goal to have **every student** at Helen Baller represented in the directory. It's your choice!

Join PTA and receive a FREE DIRECTORY!!! (by the way, you do not have to join PTA to add your child to the directory...we're just hoping you will want to!)

BALLER BEAR
Calendar of Events
August
 * Mon - 17 School Office open *
 * Mon - 31 Back to School Family Night *
 * 4:00 - 6:00 *
September
 * Wed - 2 First Day of School - no early release *
 * Mon - 7 Labor Day Holiday - no classes *



Supply list is available in the office or at www.camas.wednet.edu