

Bottenfield Parent Teacher Association



**BOTTENFIELD
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

2017-2018

2016-2017 Bottenfield PTA Officers and Committee Chairs

School Principal	Mr. Christopher Gilbert	351-3807
Assistant Principal	Ms. Renayee Westfield	351-3807

Important Websites

Bottenfield PTA: lovethebee.strikingly.com

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/BottenfieldPTA

Champaign Unit 4 School District: www.champaignschools.org

Champaign PTA Council: www.champaignptacouncil.org

National PTA: www.pta.org

Illinois PTA: www.illinoispta.org

PTA Officers

President	Rachel Dimock	president@bottenfieldpta.org
Vice-President	Jenny Lokshin	vice.president@bottenfieldpta.org
Secretary	Jeremy Brandow	secretary@bottenfieldpta.org
Treasurer	Joyce Zimmerman	treasurer@bottenfieldpta.org

Bottenfield 2017-2018 School/PTA Calendar At-a-Glance

PTA meetings are held at least six times throughout the year and are generally the second or third Tuesday of the month unless otherwise indicated. Free childcare is provided (please [e-mail the PTA Vice President](#) if you will be bringing kids).

August 2017

August 6-8	Kindergarten Camp
August 17	First full day, grades 1-5
August 18	Kindergarten half of class attends
August 19	Kindergarten other half of class attends
August 21	First full day, all grades
August 24	Open House (6:00-7:30pm)

September 2017

September 1	Institute Day (no school)
September 4	Labor Day (no school)
September 19	PTA Meeting @ 6:30pm, Bottenfield Library
September 21	Fall Holiday (no school)
September 28	Bottenfield Fundraiser at TCBY
September 29	Walkathon and Friends and Family Picnic (picnic will be from 11:30am-12:30pm)

October 2017

October 9	Fall Holiday (no school)
October 13	End of Quarter 1
October 17	PTA Meeting @ 6:30pm, Bottenfield Library
October 26-27	Book Fair (during Parent Teacher Conferences, Bottenfield Library)
October 26	Parent Teacher Conferences (no school for students)
October 27	Parent Teacher Conferences (no school for students)

November 2017

November 14	PTA Meeting @ 6:30pm, Bottenfield Library
November 22-24	Thanksgiving Break (no school)

December 2017

December 20	Early dismissal
December 21	Early dismissal (last day before Winter Break)
December 22-January 5, 2018	Winter Break (no school)

January 2018

January 8	Institute Day (no school for students)
January 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday (no school)
January 16	PTA Meeting @ 6:30pm, Bottenfield Library
January 23	Multicultural Night

February 2018

February 19

February 20

February 24

President's Day (no school)

PTA Meeting @ 6:30pm, Bottenfield Library

Bottenfield Carnival

March 2018

March 9

March 15

March 16

March 19-23

March 30

End of Quarter 3

School Improvement Day / Parent Teacher Conferences (no school for students)

Parent Teacher Conferences (no school for students)

Spring Break (no school)

Spring Holiday (no school)

April 2018

April 2

April 17

April 26

Spring Holiday (no school)

PTA Meeting @ 6:30pm, Bottenfield Library

Ice Cream Social

May 2018

May 15

PTA Meeting @ 6:30pm, Bottenfield Library

2017-2018 Bottenfield Special Events and Fundraisers

The Bottenfield PTA engages in a wide range of events, fundraisers, and community-wide initiatives designed to support and enrich the lives of students and the work of the teachers, administrators, and staff who serve them. These efforts play a key role in strengthening the Bottenfield community. Annual events like the Friends and Family Picnic, Ice Cream Social, Multicultural Night, and Spring Carnival provide students and families a chance to socialize, learn, and celebrate! Recent projects funded by PTA fundraisers include the following:

- Kindergarten and 5th grade classroom field trips
- New signs for front and back school entrances
- New grades K-2 playground
- New grades 3-5 walking path and natural landscaping
- Purchase and installation of Bottenfield's climbing wall
- Classroom supply donations

TCBY Scoop Night (Sometimes called Celebrity Scoop Night, September 28, 2017, 5-9 p.m.)

Teachers and staff volunteer their time and effort to help you make your special frozen yogurt creation at TCBY in Old Farm Shops. Meet your friends for an icy cold treat! A percentage of the earnings goes to Bottenfield PTA. THANK YOU TEACHERS!

Annual Walk-a-Thon (September 29, 2017)

The walk-a-thon is the PTA's main fundraiser, generating over 70% of the annual PTA budget. Students generate sponsorships and work together to walk our way to financial success.

Friends and Family Picnic (September 29, 2017, 11:30-12:30pm)

The picnic is an annual event that has taken place for the past 20 years. Bottenfield welcomes parents, grandparents, and special friends to come and have lunch with their children. Lunch guests bring their own lunch and eat with the children (outside if weather permitting or inside if it rains). Students can eat the hot school lunch or have lunch brought to them. Jimmy John's sandwiches will also be available for preorder. The picnic lasts an hour.

School Book Fairs (October 26-27, 2017 and March 15-16, 2018)

The book fairs are a semi-annual event at Bottenfield. This event helps our students discover the excitement and wonder of books and reading. Scholastic Books is the provider of the books for the book fairs. All proceeds from the book fairs go to the Bottenfield Library Fund.

Multicultural Festival (January 24, 2017, 6:30-8:00 p.m.)

Bottenfield is truly a wonderful community of racial, ethnic, religious, family membership, ability, and national diversity! This annual, growing event is a celebration of the cultures that make our school a rich learning environment for all. This is a family initiative, with families planning and sponsoring the interactive booths to represent their cultural heritage. If you are interested in joining, let Lisa Young know at 351-5018. This is a free event.

Carnival (Saturday, February 18, 2017, time to be announced)

Volunteers needed for set-up Friday night, February 17, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The Bottenfield Carnival has been a tradition for almost 50 years. This event requires over 150 volunteers in the weeks leading up to as well as the day of the event. Families purchase tickets to play

games in the classrooms, and the children can buy prizes with the tickets they earn from playing the games. The games include favorites such as cakewalk, pop liter pitch, lollipop tree, and bee races. Food is available for purchase. This is a fun time for all!

Ice Cream Social (April 27, 2017, 6:30-8:00 p.m.)

The Ice Cream Social is another tradition at Bottenfield. The Bottenfield families get together for ice cream, cookies, and a drink for a small fee. There are fun things to do and time to socialize as one of our concluding events for the year.

Field Day (May 19, 2017, if no snow days used)

This event provides a variety of school-wide outdoor activities during the school day.

5th Grade Promotion Ceremony (May 25, 2017, if no snow days used)

A special ceremony is held for the graduating 5th graders to celebrate their years at Bottenfield.

Volunteers are needed for these PTA events. Information will be sent out via the Beeline email list and in the classrooms. Please consider making a difference at your school!

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE PTA TODAY

Why join the Bottenfield Parent Teacher Association?

The PTA provides a coordinated and unified approach to enriching the learning environment and maximizing the positive impact of parents and community members on the children at Bottenfield Elementary and across the school district.

How to join the PTA

Simply visit the PTA table at open house or attend a meeting and pay a small annual fee of \$12 for one membership or \$20 for two members of your household. You may also send in a check for your membership in your child's classroom folder, and you will be sent a membership card, or visit the [Bee Store on the Bottenfield PTA website](#) to pay dues electronically.

Frequently asked questions about the PTA

"What are the benefits of PTA membership for me?"

- **Get connected:** Joining PTA provides opportunities to know what is happening in your school and to work more closely with teachers, administrators, and school district staff.
- **Network with other parents:** Networking with other parents is a key component of participating in the PTA. PTA provides a venue to discuss issues that are on your mind and to actively participate in making our school the best it can be. A free, online social network through www.Facebook.com is available. Just create an account and join the group Bottenfield PTA for updates about events, school news, and meeting information.
- **Personal growth:** When you volunteer with your PTA, you are putting your skills and hobbies to good use for a good cause and expanding your resume.
- **Speak up:** An important component of the PTA is advocacy. Together we can affect change in our children's school more effectively and with greater community buy-in. In addition, the state and federal PTAs provide tools to respond to current state and federal legislation issues that affect the welfare of children.
- **Actively participate in enrichment and improvement:** To be involved in the PTA is to be a part of the solution. The PTA plays an important role in advocacy and fundraising. Through PTA efforts we provide school building and grounds enhancements, educational programs, and social events that are vital to a school's success. PTA organizations have a long history in this capacity, helping to establish school lunch programs, after-school programs, school bus safety, TV rating standards, and much more.
- **Be a role model:** As a PTA member you demonstrate the importance of education to your child. You are modeling the importance of giving back to the community.
- **Discover great resources:** Participation in your local PTA opens state and federal resources to members. You will gain better understanding about helping your child with homework, get advice for preparing for parent-teacher conferences, and receive how-to tips for working with teachers all year long. You can talk with other parents and learn how to deal with difficult topics with your child such as bullying, drugs, and alcohol.

"Does it really make that much of a difference if I join or not?"

Actually, yes, it does make a difference. You may attend any PTA meeting or event without being a PTA member, but you will not be able to vote on a decision made by the PTA. For example, if you disagree with what the PTA is voting to spend money on, you could not make a difference in the results of the vote. To hold an officer position, you also need to be a paid member. Find additional information about the benefits of membership at the state and national PTA websites.

“What happens in a PTA meeting?”

PTA meetings follow a standard meeting procedure: the meeting is called to order, the minutes from the last meeting are approved, additional items may be added to the agenda, and the treasurer’s report is given. Following this, there are reports from the principal, building council, PTA council, and any other committees and representatives needing to report. Any new business is addressed, and the meeting is called to a close.

“How long are the meetings?”

The meetings generally last about an hour. This can vary depending on the amount of discussion generated and the number of new business items discussed. Many meetings are followed by a special speaker or discussion on other important issues.

“Do I have to attend the meetings?”

No, you do not HAVE to attend the meetings. However, if you do not attend, you will miss opportunities to discuss items, present ideas, make motions or vote, and network.

“Do I have to be a parent to join?”

No, you do not have to be a parent to join. Parents, grandparents, educators, students, other citizens active in their schools and communities—anyone who is concerned with the education, health, and welfare of our children—are invited to join our not-for-profit organization.

“Is childcare provided?”

Yes, and it’s FREE!

REWARDS PROGRAMS

Bottenfield participates in several rewards programs. These programs bring additional funding into the school as part of your regular purchasing. This is money for Bottenfield at no additional cost to you!

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Many products have the pink Box Tops for Education label on them. Please save the labels from the products you use at home and send them to school with your child. Teachers receive money based on the box tops collected by their students, which they may spend in their individual classrooms.

To participate:

- Cut the box top from the packaging on the dotted line.
- Double check that it is not expired (noted on the box top).
- Turn them in to your child's teacher.
- Visit www.boxtops4education.com for a complete list of participating products.

SCHNUCK'S CUSTOMER CARD

Pick up a Schnucks Customer Card at the stores in Champaign, Urbana, or Savoy and register it to benefit Bottenfield. Customers in Savoy, Champaign, and Urbana who are presently using a Schnucks Customer Card for Fuel Rewards may register that card to earn contributions by calling (800) 931-6258 or visiting <http://www.escrip.com/merchants/identity/schnucks/index.jsp>. Registration only needs to be done once. The Schnucks eScrip Customer Card may be used to generate both contributions and Fuel Rewards (where available). The Bottenfield Elementary code is 500020570. Present the card every time you shop, and Schnucks contributes a percentage of your monthly purchase amount to the school or organization of your choice. Last year, Schnucks gave Bottenfield over \$1,300!

AMAZON SMILE

You shop, Amazon gives. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Amazon Smile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. You can find more information and support Bottenfield by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com.