



It is the mission of Georgina P. Blach Intermediate School to foster a positive, compassionate and inclusive community to facilitate high levels of learning and the development of fundamental skills that prepare each student for high school and beyond.

Blach Banner : August 20, 2017

Calendar Reminders

Monday, August 21: LASD Solar Fest: Solar Eclipse Viewing Experience

(Special Schedule: Lunch at 12:17 P.M.)

Wednesday, August 23: 6:30-8:45 P.M.-Back to School Night***(more information will be sent on Tuesday)***

Friday, August 25: Minimum Day-Dismissal at 12:30 P.M.

Saturday, August 26: First Annual Blach Community Pancake Breakfast:
more information below

Tuesday, August 29: Picture Day -[Ordering Info here!](#)

Monday, September 4: No School-Labor Day

Friday, September 15: 3:03-5 P.M.-Fall Student Party-Back to School

BBQ!-for students only! *(\$5 Tickets sold in the week of Sept. 11)*

Thursday, September 21: 8:30- 10 A.M. : PTA meeting

You can also access Blach Community Calendar on our website.

From your Principal

Dear Falcon families,

Complete with Freddy, the Falcon, bubbles blowing in the air, car doors being opened, we gave a rousing and warm welcome to our new and returning Falcons! Kudos to our student council and Leadership students who, together with Mrs. Mackenzie (our Student Council Advisor and Mr. Maye and Mrs. Honigmann (our Leadership teachers) worked tirelessly to create a warm first day welcome for their peers.

‘What is your hope for this school year?’ As students walked on campus on Wednesday morning, our outstanding staff was out in full force welcoming the students. Armed with handfuls of whiteboard markers, we invited students to respond to this prompt. Responses ranged from ‘I want to make new friends’ to ‘I want to be myself’ to ‘I hope I do well in school’ and ‘I hope I don’t procrastinate!’. Staff members also joined in to share their hopes/goals. ‘I want all my students to love coming to Blach everyday’, ‘I want all students to feel confident in my class’, ‘..that all our students feel welcome here at Blach!’ were some of the thoughts that our staff shared. I invite you to read these expressions of student voice when you visit us at the Back to School Night!

Walking through classrooms during these first 3 days of school, every staff member was engaged in community building with our students, orienting students to the rituals and routines of class, co-creating class norms with students - student voice and choice drives all our work at Blach. To this end, our staff continues to collaborate on designing learning experiences that incorporate these critical elements. All our work centers on the following 4 questions:

1. What do we want students to know?
2. How do we know they have learned it?
3. How do we respond if they have not learned it?
4. How do we respond if they already know it?

This work is not done in isolation. We, as a Blach Professional Learning Community, are collectively committed to collaborate with each other and continue our learning to bring the best for our students. We are consistently focused on providing specific and actionable standards based feedback to students, designing interventions and enrichment rooted in data and supporting student ownership of learning all along. We also know that students don’t learn if they do not feel connected to school. Relationships matter. As I shared with students at our beginning of the year assembly, we are so excited that they are a Blach Falcon and every staff member on campus is on their team- we are there for our students every step of the way!

We are your partners too in your journey as a parent of a junior high student, your partners in your child's educational experience. Together, we create a caring community around our students. I invite you to reach out to us with all your thoughts, questions and concerns and we will do the same in the service of our students.

Here's to soaring together as Blach Falcons!

In partnership with you,
Bhavna

Bhavna Narula

Principal and a proud Blach Falcon!

@BlachFalcons

www.blachschool.org

Hot Lunch Volunteers Needed!!!

Would you like to have a valid reason for being on campus and catching a glimpse of your child? Well, we have just the opportunity for you! Volunteer for hot lunch!

We are in desperate need of volunteers Grab your friends and commit to a day every week or every other week. It's fun and you are doing community service at the same time!

Help is mainly needed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. If you cannot commit to regular volunteering, substitutes are needed to fill in when regular volunteers are unable to help out on their scheduled day.

This is a fun way to see the kids in action and one of the very few opportunities for volunteering at Blach. There is room to organize a small group that wants to work together.

Lunch is served at the following times:

Monday, Tuesday and Friday lunch is served at 1248p, so volunteers arrive at 1225p to help set things up.

Wednesday lunch is served at 1223p, so volunteers arrive at 12p to help set things up.

Thursday is pizza day and lunch is served at 104p with volunteers arriving at 1240p to help set things up. .

Please contact **Sarita Khuntia, Volunteer Coordinator** at srkhuntia@yahoo.com if you **would like to volunteer or if you have any questions.** Please let her know what days work for you and if you would like to volunteer every week or every other week. We cannot have a successful program without your help.

LASD Solar Panel Installation Project: Blach

Our District is excited to do its part in preserving our environment (reducing our carbon footprint) by installing solar panels at all our school sites. We expect to save \$175,000 or more annually on our utility bills as a result of being able to grandfather our current PG&E rate structure. In order to take advantage of this rate structure grandfathering we have a short window of opportunity—meaning the project must be completed before the end of the calendar year (December 31).

The solar panels will be on shade structures and installed in our school parking lot.

Construction at Blach will begin September 18th and continue for 6-8 weeks. Temporary construction fencing is scheduled to be installed on September 18 and all work and materials will be contained within the fenced area. Construction work will adhere to the noise and safety requirements of all local enforcement codes.

Traffic and parking will be impacted on and around the school sites during construction. We are working with police and traffic control departments to mitigate the impacts on the school neighborhoods. Where possible, we have made alternate parking arrangements.

The District has partnered with GreenTown Los Altos on plans to mitigate traffic. GreenTown is working with school PTAs on the design and implementation of WoW! - walk, bike, and carpool - encouragement programs.

The District is paying for this project out of its operating budget. No bond monies are being used.

Please refer to the district website (<http://www.losaltos.k12.ca.us/>) for updated communications and information.

From your PTA

Dear Blach Families,

We want to extend a warm and friendly welcome to each and every one of you! For those of you who are brand new to Blach, we hope your child's first three days have been happy and that each day he/she gets more comfortable in his/her new "home". And, for our returning families, we are so glad to see you again!

We enjoyed meeting so many of you at both Schedule Day and at our Back-to-School Social/PTA meeting this past week. We hope you are getting settled into the new school year. Here are a few important reminders and announcements:

BLACH'S DIRECT APPEAL CAMPAIGN:

Although school has started, it is not too late to complete your family's Back-to-School Packet: Please use this link [Blach Back To School Form](#) and contribute to Blach PTA's Direct Appeal Campaign and join the PTA. Unlike elementary schools, we do not have walk-a-thons and auctions to support our PTA programs. We rely on our Direct Ask Campaign. Please give generously to support all our programs including technology, campus improvement, core and elective classes, student assemblies, professional learning and much more. We are hoping for 100% participation and are deeply grateful for your support.

NEW FAMILIES:

If you are new to the area, contact our New Family Liaison, Amy Kwan amywkuan@sbcglobal.net. Amy can help answer questions and introduce you and your child to other Blach families.

HOT LUNCH:

Our awesome hot lunch program is already up and running! Enjoy the ease of not having to make your child's lunch each morning. Plus, know that for every lunch we sell, the Blach PTA receives \$1.00 (to support the programs mentioned above.) To place orders or to learn more, visit <https://pastamarket.orderlunches.com> (password is **Blach179**).

BLACH SPORTS STARTS THIS WEEK!

On August 21 we begin the following sports -



7/8th grade girls softball (tryouts)
7/8th grade boys basketball (tryouts)
and Wednesday August 23 Cross Country practice (all play).

To participate in these sports, students should sign-up during their PE classes. After signing-up they will receive some important information. In addition, the Sports Boosters and Coaches will host a parent meeting to answer your questions.

We look forward to a fun and successful sports season with our Falcons!

Feel free to contact our Blach Sports Booster Chairs with any questions:

Gill Strobe (strodeteam@gmail.com), Terri Cambouris (terri.cambouris@gmail.com), Tina Cross (tinabcross4@comcast.net) and Rosa Peir (rosapeir@gmail.com).

- ***Blach After-School Sports Program is run by the Los Altos Recreation Department, with the support of the Blach Sports Boosters.***
 - ***Check out our Blach School website and go to [VJHSAL Website](#) for even more info.***

PANCAKE BREAKFAST:

Our First Annual Blach Community Pancake Breakfast is Saturday, Aug. 26, 8am-10:30am. The event is for all students and their families, including siblings.



Tickets are \$5/person or \$15/family and can be purchased [online here](#), at our upcoming back to school events, or by cash or check on the day of the event. The attached flyer includes a payment form that may be used to pay by check. The event is being put on by our Blach PTA through the newly-formed Blach School Dad's Club, of which all dads and father figures of Blach students are members. We need volunteers to run this amazing event! Please use this [Volunteer Sign- Up form](#) to volunteer! This event is a great opportunity to connect as a community and we look forward to seeing you there! [8-26 Blach pancake breakfast flyer.docx](#)



SHOUT-OUTS: Every week we like to recognize a few outstanding volunteers for their contribution to Blach. This week we have three very special people to thank.

- **Karen Pereira:** Karen is serving as our Formsites/Website Chair this year! She worked tirelessly over the summer to get our Formsites information updated, organized and clarified. She even worked on

Formsite during her family vacation. Karen's work didn't stop there ... she also agreed to be our webmaster. Please join us in giving a "Giga-byte" Thank you to Karen for keeping us on the cutting edge technologically!

- **Bill James & Annick Mohageg:** Bill and Annick were responsible for putting on our lovely Back-to-School Social this past Thursday. Together they organized the tables of interest, the decorations, the refreshments, the set-up and the clean-up. We appreciate our awesome PTA Vice-Presidents and we can't thank them enough for helping to get our school year off to a fantastic start!

GET INVOLVED: Your involvement keeps Blach School and our PTA strong and helps our children succeed. Contact Annick Mohageg abaudot@yahoo.com or Bill James billjames99@gmail.com for more information on how to volunteer.



Go Falcons!

Bryn Stuebner, & Wendy Smith (Blach PTA Co-Presidents)
stuebner@sbcglobal.net 650-892-1197 or wendyhafnersmith@gmail.com

A Big Thank you to PTA from Blach Staff and Students! Your support makes a world of difference!

NEW!!!- Amazon Associates instead of Smile: Supporting Blach!

Make your \$\$\$ count! NEW! Amazon Associates instead of Amazon Smile

Support the PTA with your Amazon shopping! Find the link to **Blach PTA's Amazon Associates home page** on the Blach website (scroll down green sidebar to the left). **Bookmark it as your Amazon home page**, and use it whenever you shop on Amazon. The Blach PTA will receive a much higher percentage of your purchases than the Amazon Smile program provides. Such an easy way to support our kids...make it a habit before holiday season starts. Thank you for your support!

Message from LAEF

LAEF welcomes you to the 2017-18 School Year!

Over the past few days you've been busy buying school supplies, filling out forms and helping your students settle into a new routine; maybe even a new school. We hope everyone's year is off to a great start!

We at the Los Altos Educational Foundation (LAEF) are proud to partner with the District and PTAs at each school to provide a well-rounded education and we feel so fortunate to have a school district that cares so deeply about providing a wonderful education for each and every one of our kids. Whether your child's favorite part of the day is PE, STEM, a Junior High elective or just having a little extra attention from his or her teacher, your donations to LAEF help make that possible.

We hope you will join us in supporting these programs at the suggested level of \$1,200 per child. Our goal is \$3.7 million and 100% participation from our parent community, so every gift in any amount is appreciated. If you missed the link in the back to school forms, please head to www.LAEFOnline.org to make your donation to LAEF.

A Big Thank you to LAEF from Blach Staff and Students! Your support makes a world of difference!

Blach Falcons Rock!

