

SPRING / SUMMER 2018

# NEST NEWS

Neighbors Empowering Student & Teachers to SOAR!



## WOW! NEST Donates \$8,000 to the BES Playground

BES NEST Founder & Communications Chair Teresa Wood, President Monique Alexander and Fundraising Chair Carrie Hill hand Principal Shelli Roberts a check for \$8,000 on behalf of BES NEST for the new playground at BES!

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### Save the Date!

#### Hello Summer Social Jun 6 | 5:30 @Cold Mtn

Meet our new President, Monique Alexander! We're also recruiting a Treasurer, Chairpersons & Volunteers. Join Us! Appetizers served.

#### Ice Cream Social Aug 21 | 5:30 @BES

Join us for our Back-to-School Ice Cream Social to sweetly ring the new year! Meet old & new friends and see what we have in store for the year.

## NEST Hello Summer Social!

Join us for a Hello Summer Social!

Meet our new President, Monique Alexander and the rest of our dedicated NEST members and volunteers!

Do you like numbers? Or throwing parties and fun events? Making kids happy? Are you interested in putting your skills to use for rich rewards? NEST is also looking for a Treasurer, Events Coordinators and volunteers!

Join us for a Summer Social to hear what we have in store for next year and learn how you can be involved in the best PTO in the region! Light appetizers served.

**Date:** Wed, June 6

**Time:** 5:30pm

**Location:** Cold Mountain Cafe



## NEST Happenings...

*Did you know: fundraisers are the backbone of everything do!*

### Sun Safety Campaign

NEST is expanding its Sun Safety efforts at BES with our Sun Safety campaign starting this month. We'll be meeting with the BES Staff to discuss ways we can promote sun safety at the school. Download our fun Children's Sun Safety Toolkit from our website at [besnest.org](http://besnest.org).

We will also be exploring a Sun Shade Structure grant for BES in the coming year to add to the new playground.

### Fun in the Sun Summer Swag Sale!

Get ready for summer with our Summer Spirit Gear! Don't miss out on our Limited Edition Beach Towel—with a BES Eagle sporting cool shades. Also on sale: BES Eagles SS Water Bottle, Sports Bottles, Sunglasses and Wristbands. Get all 5 for a great Super Deal price. See our order form for details. Extra order forms available at [besnest.org](http://besnest.org)

If you missed our June 1 deadline, we have great news: Last minute orders will be honored until June 6—don't miss out!

### Teacher Appreciation Thank You!

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Teacher/Staff Appreciation Brunch was a great success! We'd like to thank all the parents who donated food and/or time to help make it happen.

We'd also like to acknowledge the wonderful generosity of our local businesses: Maia Papaya, Cold Mountain Café, and The Village Store.

### SilverGraphics & Art Wall Donation

Thank you for your generous support with our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual SilverGraphics Art Fundraiser. Items will be arriving the last week of May. Art Tiles will be installed over the summer.

This year, we started a tradition of gifting all of the graduating 6<sup>th</sup> grade students with a Legacy Tile for our Art Wall to commemorate their time at BES.

Happy Graduation & Good Luck, Class of 2018!





# NEST Donates \$8,000 to Build New BES Playground!

BES NEST first heard of plans to replace the aging BES playground equipment three years ago—which hadn't seen any major improvements since 1992. We immediately established our Playground Fund and began fundraising in earnest. It took three years, several fundraisers, the dedication and hard work of many past and present volunteers, and the support of parents and staff to raise \$8,000—an impressive amount for our small organization and school!

We're thrilled all that hard work paid off. The new playground will provide students with a host of new physical activities as well as many opportunities for imaginative play. It will include a number of slides, climbing structures, and even an area specifically designed for the preschool and kindergarten students. Installation is slated to begin in June.

To grow our Playground Fund, NEST grew its fundraising schedule tremendously, adding Spirit Gear Sales, our Annual Holiday Pie Sale, a Gift Basket Holiday Auction and the SilverGraphics Fundraiser to our yearly roster, which also includes our Annual Harvest Festival, along with many other fun family events. The core of NEST's fundraising dollars went to the playground fund, but the PTO also supports student field trips, helps provide BES



*Sage—pictured on BES's old slide—is an entering Pre-K student who will soon have a new playground to welcome her to school!*

families in need food baskets during the holidays, and supports teacher and staff wellness programs.

“NEST plans to continue and expand its fundraising efforts,” says founder Teresa Wood, “and now that we've reached our playground donation goal, we can't wait to explore other options of how we can help improve Bethlehem Elementary School.”

“Now is the perfect time to join our PTO,” says incoming President Monique Alexander. “We have some exciting plans on the horizon, but we're currently facing a critical volunteer shortage. With the support of new parent and staff volunteers, we can accomplish some great new things at BES. Please consider joining us. In such a small school—with its very small pool of parents and staff—every bit helps.”

For more information on NEST and how you can be a part of our efforts, please visit <http://besnest.org> or email us at [soar@besnest.org](mailto:soar@besnest.org). Thank you!



## Wild Raspberry Pops

Here's our simple and delicious recipe for homemade ice pops! Use fresh wild raspberries or store bought.

**4 Cups (1 lb) Raspberries**  
**1 Cup plus 2 TBSPs**  
**simple syrup**

**To Make Simple Syrup:**  
**1 C cane sugar**  
**1 C water**

*Combine sugar and water in saucepan and simmer until dissolved. Let cool.*

*Puree raspberries in a food processor or just smash them with a potato masher, then transfer to a bowl or cup with a pouring spout. Add the simple syrup. Stir well and taste. Adjust as needed.*

*Pour mixture into ice pop molds, leaving a bit of room at the top. Freeze until solid, 4-5 hours. Enjoy!*

# We're Growing Our NEST!

## A Letter from Our New President

Greetings All!

My name is Monique Alexander and I am super excited and honored to be leading our school's PTO, BES NEST, as the new President. First let me say THANK YOU to Teresa Wood who has been at the helm since the inception of this organization. She had a vision and took the necessary steps to make it happen.

I am proud to be continuing the legacy of an organization that has been a true blessing to BES and the local community. Teresa is staying on as the Marketing & Communications Director for NEST, and I am truly thankful for her continued guidance and friendship.

I hope many of you will join me in continuing the NEST legacy. We could always use more volunteers to support the various school events and fundraising that take place. If you're interested in volunteering in any capacity, we would love for you to join us at our Summer Social on Wed, June 6 @5:30pm. I can more formally introduce myself and hopefully put more faces to names. If you're unable to attend but interested in NEST, please email me at [soar@besnest.org](mailto:soar@besnest.org).

Thank you for your support and I hope to see you soon!

Monique Alexander  
BES NEST President

## A Note from Our Founder

Dear BES Parents, Teachers & Staff Members,  
Please join me in welcoming Monique Alexander as the new president of BES NEST!

I started NEST in 2012 after noticing that BES didn't have an active PTO. Building our organization took a lot of hard work and volunteer dedication along the way, and I am so proud of what we've been able to accomplish since our founding. As NEST grew, I had to wear many hats and juggle many roles, and it wasn't always easy. To continue our success, I knew NEST needed to diversify its leadership roles.

I couldn't be more thrilled to have Monique at the helm of our wonderful team. Monique joined NEST two years ago as a volunteer, and from very early on, I knew she would be perfect as NEST's next President. It is my honor to pass the NEST President torch to her. With Monique's leadership, vision, drive, knowledge, organization, and wonderful people skills, NEST will continue to grow in fresh, new directions and thrive at BES. It's a great joy to welcome and work with Monique!

Teresa Wood  
BES NEST Founder | Marketing & Communications Director



## Meet Monique...

*Monique and her family moved here a couple of years ago from Long Island, NY. Her husband, Lawrence, works at the White Mountain School as the Director of College Counseling and Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Monique also works at WMS part-time as the Director of Community Life. Additionally, she serves on the BES School Board and enjoys spending time with her 4 children: Jaylynn, Elijah, Leighton and Matthew.*



## It Takes a Village...

NEST's success depends on the dedication and volunteer efforts of parents like you.

Please consider joining our wonderful team. We are looking for a Treasurer, Events Coordinators and volunteers for the coming school year.

*Pictured above (L-R): present members Teresa Wood and Heidi Vaughn, Principal Shelli Roberts, former members Meg Metras and Tammy Cote.*





# Connect with NEST!

Our goal at NEST is to build a network, allowing us to pool our resources, unite our energy and harness our passion to better our school and our community! Good communication is the key, via our website at [besnest.org](http://besnest.org), email blasts, school flyers, Facebook page and newsletters.

We **STRONGLY URGE** all parents and community members to stay connected to NEST—our goal is to help EVERYONE stay connected to what is happening in our community and at our school. Keep in the know and have fun—and *please help if you can, when you can*. Every little bit of help adds up to big things!

*A jug fills drop by drop. - Buddha*

Visit us at: [besnest.org](http://besnest.org) and on Facebook at: [facebook.com/BESNEST](https://facebook.com/BESNEST).

Signup for Email Updates at [besnest.org/contact-sign-up](http://besnest.org/contact-sign-up) or at <http://eepurl.com/pNK5L>.

Email [soar@besnest.org](mailto:soar@besnest.org).

Complete the sign-up form below & return it to the school

## HAPPY SUMMER!!

### BES NEST Sign-Up Form

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Bethlehem Elementary School



Great opportunities  
to help others  
seldom come, but  
small ones surround  
us every day.

- Sally Koch