



BBK Bulletin

Editor's Note

Hello Keller Families!

Great news! We had over 80 students express interest in learning more about Best Buddies at Keller Elementary School. These students will have the opportunity to participate in our June workshop, where they will learn more about what it means to be a Peer Buddy and be a part of Best Buddies.

In addition, we hope you were able to join us at the Dodgeball tournament at Horace Mann Middle School. Keller had several teams participating as part of our kick off of the first Elementary Best Buddies chapter ever! In addition, we will be kicking up the fun at the Keller Fun Run on 5/29. We hope you are able to join us there too!

In our last issue of the school year, we will be providing further information regarding the summer institute in which selected students will be asked to participate. Thanks for reading and if you choose not to read, thanks for recycling!

Stephanie L. Geddes
IEP Coordinator

"A friend is a gift you give yourself."

-Robert Louis Stevenson



What is a Buddy Family?

Each Buddy will be paired with a Buddy Family. There will be five members to this family.

1. **Buddy** – student with an intellectual or developmental disability
2. **Peer Buddy** – Buddy's one-to-one match who is responsible for getting together with their Buddy at least once a month outside of school.
3. **Letter Buddy** – responsible for sending some sort of written communication to their Buddy at least once a week.
4. **Lunch Buddy** – responsible for sitting with their Buddy at lunch at least once a week.
5. **Recess Buddy** – responsible for playing with their Buddy at least once a week at recess.

All of the Buddy Family members will be invited to monthly meetings. Most of those monthly meetings will include fun activities that are completed with their Buddy. Three times during the year, the Buddy Family members will meet with staff without their Buddy in order to help initiate and maintain the relationships that are being created as well as continue to foster the inclusive environment that already exists at Keller Elementary.

SPOTLIGHT ON:

BBK Advisor Sarah Fishman



Ms. Fishman earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Endicott College and while there she helped found and run the Best Buddies chapter. In addition, she completed her theses work on developing a Best Buddies program at the elementary level. She has been teaching at Keller Elementary for three years and currently works as a third grade Special Education Teacher in a co-taught classroom

A few words from Ms. Fishman:

I am thrilled to be a part of yet another new Best Buddies chapter. I have so enjoyed my time spent working in Franklin, MA thus far, and can't wait to see what this new incredible journey has in store for us. FPS and Keller Elementary has put in a lot of time and effort to become the first ever Elementary Best Buddies chapter, and I feel so grateful to be a part of it. I know the students and staff at Keller Elementary are going to help make BBK the best it can be, and I look forward to the exciting year we have ahead of us!

Reminder: A few requirements for Participants

As a Best Buddies participant:

- I understand that if I am matched in a one-to-one friendship, the commitment includes meeting together outside of school once a month and making weekly contact during the school year.
- I understand that I will attend chapter activities, assemblies, and Best Buddies events and that my conduct should always promote the mission of Best Buddies.

Trivia

1. True or False: Best Buddies Promoters was the eighth program to launch and was the first program open to elementary schools.
2. Best Buddies just celebrated what anniversary?
 - a. 25th
 - b. 15th
 - c. 20th
 - d. 10th
3. The Best Buddies Challenge route is what each year?
 - a. Boston to Hyannis Port, MA
 - b. Carmel to San Simeon, CA
 - c. Miami, FL
 - d. All of the Above

*Answers can be found at the bottom of the page.