

Dear BHS Parents/Guardians,

Our fun, winter dance – TOLO is coming up soon on **Saturday, February 6th from 8:30-11:30pm at Bellevue High School.**

The theme is **Frozen in Time** – with an emphasis on “decades past”!

Here are a couple of things to know in advance:

- School ID is required when purchasing each ticket **and** at the door for entry into the dance.
- Guest passes are available in the Activities Office and must be turned in by **Monday, February 1st.**
- **Tickets** can be purchased in the Activities Office beginning Monday, February 1st thru February 5th at lunch and after school.

Ticket prices:

Monday – Friday: with ASB \$20.00 and without ASB \$25.00

At the door: with ASB \$25.00 and without ASB \$30.00

You might remember a letter I sent to our school community this fall concerning issues we were having at Bellevue High School with dance attendance and safety. Here are some excerpts from that letter:

“In recent years, there has been much discussion about the issue of kids not staying at the dance and why is it that *at other schools*, in and around the Bellevue School District, kids go to the dances, stay the whole time and have a great time, but not at BHS. It is my hope, along with ASB and the BHS administration; we can begin to move beyond that this year. This year’s ASB Officers, Class Officers, Student Senate Cabinet, and Link Commissioners are focused on this issue and have been working diligently to change the school culture surrounding dances.

Why does ASB feel that attending dances is important?

- 1) Dances provide a safe, positive, and fun environment for all BHS students, build community across ages and social groups and foster school spirit.

The BHS students, staff, and administration want to provide a safe place for students to socialize and enjoy each other. We have teacher and parent chaperones for these events to ensure the social environment is supervised and safe. Dances provide an opportunity for all the kids in the school to come together in a relaxed, inclusive setting to socialize, not only their own social group and classmates, but with other peer groups from the school. This develops school unity, community and camaraderie across the entire student body. Additionally, it shows support for those students and teachers who put hours and hours into organizing these events FOR THE STUDENTS.

- 2) Dances provide critical financial support to BHS.

Homecoming, TOLO, and other school dances are one of the few ways ASB can generate money. If the parent community helps their kids create competing activities, on the same night of our school-sanctioned events, our school loses and our kids lose. We need student participation at the events in order to generate money to pay for the many clubs and activities currently available at BHS. If ASB cannot generate enough funds from the dances, students and parents end up having to execute more individual fundraisers in order to keep extracurricular activities alive and well.”

With regard to the previous letter, I’d like to reiterate the main points. Dances at BHS are designed to be a safe, positive and fun environment. These events also help us generate much needed revenue to support all student activities (such as the WE ARE BELLEVUE t-shirts handed out to students who went to the State Football game, the assemblies, just to name a few).

Once again, we ask for your support!

The student organizers for TOLO have hired a fantastic dj - DJ Hyperfunk - who not only plays great music, but has an amazing light show in the PAC. We hope over 700 students will attend TOLO! We hope students will stay until the dance ends - 11:30pm.

So what do we want from you? ASB would like to ask parents to encourage their kids to participate in a meaningful way in TOLO and not to facilitate the creation of competing activities at the same time as the dance.

As the ASB Advisor, I would like to reiterate that many groups do not have after-parties after TOLO. For those families that do make the decision to host one, I ask that they be held **AFTER** the dance is over - not during the dance. I have heard from *many* parents that feel strongly about this issue, but it only takes one parent to say to their child, "Oh of course you can have the party here and of course it's fine if everyone come at 10 pm....." I am asking the parent community to think about the negative effect this is having on building and sustaining a school community at Bellevue High School.

Please continue to support our efforts to create a safe, positive and fun environment for your students.

Sincerely,

Amber Graeber
ASB Advisor