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Briarlake Elementary PTA Newsletter

10th Week of School

2011-2012



Welcome back Beavers,

We have an exciting weekend in store! Our annual Fall Festival is finally here. Bring your family, invite your neighbors, and enjoy this fun community event! It is not too late to volunteer, so please lend a hand and be a part of making this event a great success. More details are below.

What a great International Walk to School Day last week. We had 342 students participate - a record for Briarlake! Thank you to Valerie Ringo, Anna Berkowitz, Brigitte Clifton, Emily Mason, Heidi Blanck, Laura Bolsen, Carol Chilton, Lisa Gibson, Lisa Barrios, Jennifer Owen, Shannon Vogt, Dr. Culbreath, Mr. Cocks, Police Officer Whaley, Fire Safety Officers Lemon and Cagle and all of the supportive parents who helped our children walk safely to school. Now that the weather has cooled, we hope you will continue to make walking to school a part of your routine. It is a great way to start the day!

Please mark your calendar for the Briarlake PTA meeting next Tuesday at 7:45 a.m. at the school. Have a great week!

School News & Events

Fall Festival THIS WEEKEND Saturday, October 15th
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



About 25 more volunteers still needed! Thanks to ALL who have volunteered so far; Saturday is going to be such a fun day with perfect weather - Sunny and 76!

[Please click here](#) to volunteer for a shift at the festival this Saturday so we can finalize plans. Volunteers receive a lunch coupon to use at the Briarlake cafe the day of the Festival and will be entered into a raffle as well.

Also, do you have an E-Z Up Pop Tent(s)/Canopy Tent(s) we can borrow? We need about 10 tents for the Fall Festival. PLEASE let Carolyn Hansen know if you can donate, and she will coordinate with you.

All proceeds from the Festival benefit the PTA and are used to support school activities. Feel free to reach out to the Fall Festival Co-Chairs or the Volunteer Coordinators if you have questions.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Carolyn Hansen and Angela Pilcher, Fall Festival Co-Chairs
Susan Bergen and Paige Fitts, Volunteer Coordinators

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Important Dates

October

Sat., Oct. 15
Fall Festival

Tues. Oct. 18
PTA Meeting 7:45 a.m.

Wed., Oct 19
Emory-LaVista Parent Council Meeting

Thurs., Oct 20
Spirit Night at MOE's!

November

Nov. 8 SPLOST
Referendum

Quick Links

Emory Lavista Parent Council Meeting Next Week

Emory Lavista Parent Council

Wednesday, October 19, 2011 9:15 am (*refreshments begin at 8:45 am*)

Topic: "No Child Left...Behind and Beyond Federal Regulations to find Radical Solutions to Save our Failing Schools"

Speakers: Margo DeLaune, Title Programs Director for GaDOE, and Anthony Threat, GaDOE School Improvement Specialist Assigned to DCSS and a brief presentation on the 2011 SPLOST Proposal by Barbara Coleman, DCSS Interim CIP Operations Officer

Where: Fernbank Elementary School
157 Heaton Park Drive, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30307

NOW IS THE TIME! Reflections projects due THIS FRIDAY!!

Get creative! Get busy! Let your children's Creativity Shine! Do you love to draw, write stories, take photos, dance, make videos, or compose music? Here is your chance! Let your talents shine by participating in Reflections, a national PTA arts recognition program. The theme for 2011 is "Diversity Means...." You may enter creative work relating to this theme in any of six areas: literature, musical composition, photography, visual arts, dance choreography, and film/video production. Each category has different guidelines that need to be followed very carefully. Find more [details here](#).

Briarlake Foundation Update

Now that Halloween and the Holidays are around the corner, remember to long into www.briarlakefoundation.org when ordering from Amazon. You can directly connect to Amazon from our site and 5% of all sales go to the Foundation.

Healthy Habits Highlight

Wednesday, Oct. 26, fresh, Georgia-grown Granny Smith apples will be on the lunch menu as part of Dekalb's Farm-to-School initiative. Kids can choose this healthy treat from a Georgia farm with their school lunches, or those who bring their lunches may purchase the fruit for 75-cents. Remember that eating local-grown produce supports Georgia farmers and reduces fossil fuels and other waste required by packing, preserving, and transporting produce from hundreds of miles away. It's also healthier because fresher foods retain more nutrients, and local tastes better!

Green Team Needs Your Tubes



Your paper towel, TP, and other tubes can make great fodder for our annual Fall Festival marble run. Drop your tubes in the marked bin by the front door before Friday, October 14. It's a great way to reuse, and all recyclable materials will be recycled afterward.

[2011 - 2012 Family Handbook](#)

[Briarlake PTA Website](#)

[Briarlake Elementary Website](#)

[Briarlake School Calendar](#)

[DeKalb County Schools Website](#)

Cell Tower Info



Read the [press release](#) recently issued by the PTA.

What can you do to help? [Click here](#) for a contact list to make your voices heard on this issue.

Please continue to check out the website www.noBriarlakeTower.org for ongoing information and details on the developing story of the contract between T-mobile and our Board of Education. If you would like to receive updates via e-mail, send an e-mail to [Stephanie Byrne](#) to be added to the distribution. Your help and time in this matter are greatly appreciated.

[Informational Flyer](#)

Carpool Reminders

Job posting - Crossing Guard LaVista & Frazier

The DeKalb County School System is currently seeking applicants for a crossing guard position at the intersection of Frazier Road and LaVista Road, to assist Briarlake Elementary children and families in walking or biking to and from school. This is a wonderful opportunity for someone with a flexible daytime schedule to be involved in the safety and well-being of Briarlake Elementary students. Interested parties should visit the DeKalb County School System website to apply on-line, and may also contact Officer Smith, crossing guard liaison at the DeKalb County Police Department, at 678-676-1810 for information about the position requirements, applicant qualifications needed, etc. For additional information about the Briarlake Elementary community, contact Valerie Ringo, Briarlake Elementary PTA Safe Routes to School Coordinator, at email vringo70@gmail.com.

Get Your Briarlake Spirit Wear

Briarlake spirit wear shirts are available for purchase in the school store for \$12. Come by and get one before your size is no longer available - there will be no additional reorders. These are great for Spirit Nights, field trips, school events, and anytime you want to show your Beaver pride!



Community News & Events

SPLOST IV Vote in November

On November 8th, DeKalb County residents will vote on a SPLOST referendum (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax). If passed, the current penny sales tax which funds school system construction projects and vehicles will be extended for 5 more years beginning in July 2012. If the referendum fails in November, it can be brought for a vote again in the future. For more information about how the school system plans to use the sales tax funds, visit this [website](#). To read the exact wording of the SPLOST referendum, visit this [website](#).

DCSS Parent Roundtable Meetings

In accordance with the new Superintendent's 90-Day Entry Plan, you are invited to participate in one of the following Parent Roundtable discussions that will be held throughout the school district. They will be held on the following days:

Thursday, October 20	McNair High School	7:00 P.M.
Tuesday, October 25	Columbia High School	7:00 P.M.
Thursday, October 27	Dunwoody High School	7:00 P.M.
Tuesday, November 1	Miller Grove High School	7:00 P.M.
Thursday, November 3	Stephenson High School	7:00 P.M.

[Click here](#) to read the official invitation from DCSS. You may also visit the [DCSS website](#) for more information!

DCSS Strategic Planning Survey On Line

For the safety of our children and staff, there should be **NO CELL PHONE USE** while in carpool.

There is **NO LEFT TURN** into carpool line from Briarlake Road.



Also, while we love animals, please refrain from bringing your pets to school during arrival and dismissal.

Thank you for your cooperation!

ITBS Testing

The ITBS testing schedule for this year has just been made available by the County.

[1st Grade](#)
[Grades 3 & 5](#)

Save the Date

Next PTA Meeting

Tuesday, October 18
7:45 a.m.
all parents and teachers
welcome and encouraged
to attend

Briarlake Elementary School
3590 LaVista Road
Decatur, GA 30033
Office: 678-874-2502
Clinic: 678-874-2507

Send email to :
[Briarlake PTA](#)

The DeKalb County School System is re-establishing a strategic planning process and invites you to participate! We want to hear from you regarding what you want your public schools to provide for students, what the schools are doing well, and what challenges the schools and students face. The input that you provide on [this survey](#) will be used to revise the district's strategic plan for approval by the Board of Education in February 2012. All survey responses are anonymous.

Sincerely,

Vanessa & Sarah

Vanessa Erens & Sarah Cook , PTA Co-Presidents
Briarlake Elementary PTA

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Briarlake Elementary PTA | 3590 LaVista Road | Decatur | GA | 30033

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Vanessa Erens & Sarah
Cook
VP Programs -
Elesha Mavrommatis
& Melissa Forster-Green
VP Fundraising -
Amy Kirsch &
Lisa Spivack
Treasurer -
Heather Leahy
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