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Briarlake Elementary PTA Newsletter

11th Week of School

2011-2012



Happy Wednesday, Beavers! Is everyone ready for some cooler temperatures?!?

What a fabulous Fall Festival we had last Saturday! The weather was perfect, the turnout was better than ever, and everyone seemed to have a blast! MANY thanks to everyone who volunteered their time and energy. It would not have been such a success without each and every one of you. A very special thank you to our Fall Festival co-chairs, Angela Pilcher and Carolyn Hansen, for all their hard work, creativity and enthusiasm!

Make sure to check out the new additions to our outdoor learning areas and gardens next time you are at the school. They look fantastic!

Thank you to everyone who attended the PTA meeting yesterday morning. Stay tuned for meeting minutes coming soon.

Enjoy the rest of your week. We look forward to seeing everyone at Moe's for Spirit Night tomorrow!

School News & Events

Spirit Night at Moe's - 4pm until closing time!

Come on out on Thursday to Briarlake's first Spirit Night at Moe's Southwest Grill on Lavisita! (Next to Michael's) It's a fast-casual dinner and you won't have to cook. Plus ten percent of the proceeds go to Briarlake!

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.



Thanksgiving Luncheon - reservations required

Don't forget to make your reservations for our annual Thanksgiving luncheon. You must make reservations in advance and pre-pay-you will not be served otherwise. Reservations are due by October 28th as we have to order the necessary food from the county well in advance. Please send in a check, made out to the Briarlake PTA, with the bottom portion of the [reservation form](#).



Retake Picture Order Envelopes due this Friday - 10/21!

The picture retake proof order envelopes state a due date of 10/17 but this due date has been extended to this Friday, 10/21. Please fill out your

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Important Dates

October

Wed., Oct 19
Emory-LaVista Parent Council Meeting

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

Fri., Oct 28
Thanksgiving Luncheon Reservations Due

Oct 24-30
Red Ribbon Week

Mon., Oct 24-Nov 3
Iowa Test of Basic Skills (Gr. 1, 3, 5)

November

Nov. 8 SPLOST Referendum Vote

Quick Links

proof order envelopes and include payment for return to school no later than this Friday. There will be a collection box in the front office.

Thanks, Nicole Spiro
School Pictures

Thank you Home Depot, Lawrenceville Hwy!

Briarlake was excited to offer a new activity at the Fall Festival this year thanks to our local Home Depot. The Lawrenceville Hwy store not only donated all of the hay bales for the festival, they led popular hands-on building workshops for children all day. Home Depot is a new community partner for Briarlake and has offered to assist with other educational programs and campus and school improvements going forward. We are so grateful for their support.

Green Team

The Green Team still needs one or two adults willing to supervise the collection of paper recycling bins from the classrooms around carpool time once a week. Last year, some of the patrol students really helped out, but they need to be supervised for the half-hour it takes to collect the recycling and take it to the paper dumpster in the lower parking lot. If we can get 2 or more volunteers, we can switch off weeks to keep from having to be available weekly. Please email [Brigitte](#) if you can help.



Healthy Habits Highlight

October is Farm to School month. What is Farm to School? It's any program that connects schools and local farms with serving healthy meals in school cafeterias; improving student nutrition; providing agriculture, health and nutrition education opportunities; and supporting local farmers. Farm to School programs are as diverse as the communities that build them. What does

Briarlake do for its Farm to School program? We have educational gardens, an outdoor classroom, we provide nutrition education, and more! This month's highlight is Granny Smith apples day on Wednesday, October 26, when fresh, tangy Granny Smiths from a local farm will be served in the cafeteria. Children can wear green that day and make sure to choose this local, tasty fruit with their lunches to celebrate and support Farm to School!

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

[2011 - 2012 Family Handbook](#)

[Briarlake PTA Website](#)

[Briarlake Elementary Website](#)

[Briarlake School Calendar](#)

[DeKalb County Schools Website](#)

Cell Tower Info



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.

Carpool Reminders

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

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.

Community News & Events

Emory LaVista Parent Council Meeting Today

Join us at 9:15 am (refreshments begin at 8:45 am) today, Wednesday, October 19th at Fernbank Elementary School (157 Heaton Park Drive, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30307). The topic will be: No Child Left Behind and Beyond Federal Regulations to Find Radical Solutions to Save our Failing Schools. Guest speakers will include Margo DeLaune, Title Programs Director for the Georgia Dept. of Education (GaDOE) and Anthony Threat, GaDOE School Improvement Specialist assigned to DCSS.

There will also be a brief presentation on the 2011 SPLOST Proposal by Barbara Colman, DCSS Interim CIP Operations Officer.

Upcoming 2011 Meeting:

November 16: Evansdale Elementary School

Topic: State Standards Paving our Curriculum and Potholes Along the Way

To receive ELPC notices, please [email](#) us.

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!

Sincerely,

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](#)

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Send email to :
[Briarlake PTA](#)

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Co-Presidents -
Vanessa Erens & Sarah Cook
VP Programs -
Elesha Mavrommatis
& Melissa Forster-Green
VP Fundraising -
Amy Kirsch &
Lisa Spivack
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Vanessa & Sarah

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

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