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Briarlake Elementary PTA Newsletter

13th Week of School

2011-2012



Happy Wednesday, Beavers!

First, congratulations to Ms. Kari Cernoch, Briarlake's 2012 Teacher of the Year! Thank you for all you do!

Hope everyone enjoyed a night of costumes and treats this week. We have a busy month of exciting activities in November including the wonderful Scholastic Book Fair, our annual Holiday luncheons, Spirit Night, our annual Food Drive, and a fantastic story-teller that you won't want to miss. Gather your calendar as you read the blast this week to make sure you can save these important dates!

Also, please take the time to stroll around Briarlake's campus to see the beautiful new garden fencing and all that's growing - strawberries, basil, peanuts, ferns, flowers and much more. Ms. Elliot shared some delicious Briarlake Jr. Garden Club -grown honeydew melon last week and Ms. Coker's class will be planting some winter crops next week. Thank you teachers and parent volunteers for supporting Farm to School efforts at Briarlake.



School News & Events

The 2011 Scholastic Book Fair - To the Book Fair and Beyond! - is on its way!

The Fair will take place at Briarlake on Wednesday, November 16th, through Friday, November 18th, on the cafeteria stage. The Fair will be open to students and families before school (7:30-8:00), after school (2:30-3:15) and during the Thanksgiving Lunches (11:00-1:30) on Thursday and Friday.

Also this year - beat the crowd and shop early after Storytelling Night (7:00-7:30) on Tuesday, November 15th!

Volunteers are needed to help work short shifts during the Book Fair. You get to shop while you work and enjoy a 10% discount off your purchases! To volunteer, please contact Kristi Steed at kristi.steed@comcast.net.

Note from Mr. Hydo - Winter Concert volunteers needed

The time for the Winter Program is quickly coming upon us and we need

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Important Dates

November

Nov. 8 SPLOST Referendum Vote

Nov. 10 Chick-fil-A Spirit Night
Nov. 14-18 Food Drive

Nov. 15
PTA Mtg., 7:45 a.m.
PTA Storytelling 6:00 p.m.

Nov. 15-18 Scholastic Book Fair

Nov. 17-18 Holiday Lunch

Nov. 21-25 No School -Thanksgiving Holidays
December

- Dec. 8 Holiday Program

Quick Links

[2011 - 2012 Family Handbook](#)

[Briarlake PTA Website](#)

volunteers to make sure this year's program is a success both musically and logistically.

Extra hands are needed for set-up, decorations, grade level chaperoning, and clean up. If anyone has questions, or wishes to volunteer, please email patrick_J_hydo@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us

[Briarlake Elementary Website](#)

[Briarlake School Calendar](#)

[DeKalb County Schools Website](#)

Briarlake Foundation Update

Now that the Holidays are around the corner, remember to log onto 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.



Please Donate your Drink Pouches!

In 2009 the Briarlake Green Team, led by Susan Mancusi-Ungaro, started recycling Capri-Sun drink pouches. In 2009 and 2010 we collected 2651 pouches. Over the past year Julia Roberts and Sally Elliott have collected and sent in 4147 pouches and another box was just sent in! The Briarlake after-school program also assists with this effort. The company now accepts all drink pouches, so please remember to collect your pouches at home and send them in. The collection box is in the cafeteria. Help us keep the pouches out of the landfills. Want to know more about this program...go to terracycle.net.

Community News & Events

Saturday, November 19, 2011

Lakeside High School Annual Viking 5K Road Race

The race will be staged at Oak Grove United Methodist Church, 1722 Oak Grove Road, Decatur, GA 30033. The race will run through neighboring residential areas. An awards ceremony will be held immediately following the race. Details available at [here](#)

5K Time: 8:00am - 3.1 mile

Fun Run Time 8:30am - 1 mile

REGISTRATION: Online registration is available by going to [<http://www.active.com/running/decatour-ga/lakeside-high-school-annual-viking-5k-2011>]LHSF

Viking Race Registration. Before Nov. 14, registration is \$20 and after the 14th, \$25. Check-in and late registration is 7am to 7:45am at Oak Grove Church.

MORE INFORMATION: Contact [mailto:TKStamps62@aol.com] Tara Stamps, or Gary Jenkins 678-795-0115 (pacesetr@bellsouth.net). For the safety of our runners, no pets, inline skates, skate-boards, or bikes permitted.

Strollers are welcome.

SPLOST IV Vote is Nov. 8

DCSS employees recently gave an overview of the proposed SPLOST IV (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) projects. We will vote on SPLOST IV on November 8. If passed, the current penny sales tax which funds DeKalb County school system construction projects and vehicles will

Important Carpool Safety Reminder

Please remember to SLOW DOWN as you drive through carpool lines. Please be mindful of your speed not only at morning drop off and afternoon dismissal but at ALL times as students may be outside during the day. Also, we are asking again to please observe the No Left Turn from Briarlake Road - we are still seeing several cars making that illegal and unsafe turn. Thank you for your cooperation.

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

be extended for 5 more years beginning in July 2012. **Henderson Middle School is a top priority on the list, and would receive \$16 million dollars.**

The ELPC speakers clarified these points:

- 1) If SPLOST IV does not pass this November is it unlikely that it will be placed on the ballot in 2012, due to the transportation SPLOST vote already scheduled for 2012.
- 2) If SPLOST IV does not pass this November, the school board reform legislation (which dictates that DeKalb's Board of Education will be reduced from 9 members to 7 members) will not go into effect.
- 3) DeKalb's current BOE is setting up a committee of community members and construction experts to ensure proper oversight of SPLOST IV dollars. On November 8th, DeKalb County residents will vote on a SPLOST referendum (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax).

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 Meeting: Carpool from Briarlake

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.

Last Meeting! Thursday, November 3 Stephenson High School 7:00 P.M.

If you are interested in carpooling, meet at Briarlake at 6:30 p.m.

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

Sincerely,

Vanessa & Sarah

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

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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](mailto:Stephanie.Byrne) to be added to the distribution. Your help and time in this matter are greatly appreciated.

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