

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

Briarlake Elementary PTA Newsletter

14th Week of School

2011-2012



Happy Wednesday, Beavers!

To begin with, thank you to everyone who took the time to get out and vote yesterday. SPLOST IV was passed ensuring the continuation of the one cent sales tax which allows funding for construction, renovation and other improvement projects for schools throughout DeKalb County.

There is much happening at Briarlake and in our community over the coming weeks. Spirit Night at the North Druid Hills Chick-fil-A is this Thursday. Put on your Briarlake spirit wear and come out to support our school!

There is a PTA meeting next **Tuesday morning at 7:45** in the cafeteria. Please note the time change from the original calendar. We have an exciting Tuesday evening planned with Storytelling Night starting at 6:00. Don't forget to bring money for our annual Scholastic Book Fair that will open Tuesday following Storytelling and will continue through Friday.

We are looking forward to our annual Thanksgiving luncheons next Thursday and Friday. We are no longer accepting reservations for guest meals, but we welcome family members to join their students for the luncheon. Please remember to bring some food bags for the CHOA Food Drive to help families in need - see below for details.

Finally, a reminder that there is no school for the entire week of Thanksgiving (11/21-11/25).

Enjoy the rest of your week!

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](#).

Briarlake PTA Presents..... Storytelling Night

It's More Than A Story - Tuesday, November 15th

In This Issue

[Scholastic Book Fair](#)

[Storytelling Night](#)

[Reflections Winners](#)

[Spirit Night](#)

[Important Dates](#)

[Cell Tower Info](#)



Important Dates

November

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](#)

Come dressed as your favorite book character and watch storyteller Mama Koku bring stories magically to life!

All students who attend will be entered into a raffle drawing for fun prizes. (Those dressed in costume will be entered to win twice!)

Following the program, Briarlake's Book Fair will open to shoppers.

Briarlake Cafeteria

Storytelling: 6 - 6:45 p.m.

Raffle Drawings: 6:45 - 7 p.m.

Book Fair: 7 - 7:30 p.m.

[Briarlake Elementary Website](#)

[Briarlake School Calendar](#)

[DeKalb County Schools Website](#)

Congratulations to these Reflections Winners!

1st Grade - Martin Gerstle, 1st place, Visual Arts

2nd Grade - Benjamin Brass, 1st place, Photography

Alexander Vastakis; 1st place, Visual Arts; 1st place, Musical Composition; 1st place, Literature

4th Grade - Nicholas Vastakis; 1st place, Visual Arts; 1st place, Musical Composition

5th Grade - Flora McGirt, 1st place, Visual Arts

Ethan Rotnem, 1st place, Literature



Don't Cook On Thursday...It's Chick-fil-A Spirit Night!

Come on out for Spirit Night on November 10th, 5-8pm at the North Druid Hills Chick-fil-A. Part of the proceeds from the night will go to Briarlake Elementary so invite friends, family, and neighbors for a fun dinner out!

Healthy Habits Highlight

November's lunch highlight happens on Wednesday, the 16th, when farm-fresh baked sweet potatoes will tempt even the pickiest eaters into adopting this healthy habit. Sweet potatoes are packed with fiber and are a super source of vitamins A and C in addition to other healthy qualities. What's more, since they come straight from a Georgia farm, they'll retain maximum taste and benefit.

Encourage your children to choose sweet potatoes next Wednesday or add them to their lunches from home for only 75-cents. Monthly local produce offerings are part of DeKalb County's Farm to School Initiative and a great way to develop healthy habits for life.



Math Club at Briarlake

Calling All Beaver Parents! What do you get when you add math-minded parents to a group of highly motivated math students??? A successful Briarlake Math Club for students in grades 3-5!



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

It was discussed at last week's School Council meeting that interest has been expressed in starting a math club at Briarlake. If you would like to sponsor/coach our math club, please contact Ms. McMillan at Melissa_A_McMillan@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us by **this Friday, November 11, 2011**.

Duties will include:

- *scheduling club meetings
- *organizing a team for the Sagamore Hills Math Tournament in January
- *developing and implementing fun and challenging math activities for our students

CHOA Food Drive

Briarlake will again be collecting food bags in support of the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta-Egleston Giving Project.

This project provides bags of food to the families who have children at Egleston and are in need of extended care. The Patient and Family Support Services Department at CHOA assists by providing food for these families. They rely on charitable donations to make this food available to any family that needs it.

HOW YOU AND YOUR FAMILY CAN HELP:

Food bags are gallon sized Zip-lock bags filled with non-perishable food items.

A breakfast bag could have pop-tarts, cereal bar, envelope of oatmeal, packaged cereal, canned fruit with a pop top lid, an individually wrapped muffin, and a juice box.

A lunch bag could have microwavable soup, pasta or rice, Ramen noodles, packages of crackers or cookies, popcorn, chips, or a candy bar.

A dinner bag could have canned tuna/chicken (or in a pouch), canned vegetables with a pop top lid, individually wrapped cookies or cake.

Each bag should contain enough items (4-5) for a complete meal. There are many additional food items available now that are non-perishable and ready to heat and eat. Look for them in your grocery stores.

DROP OFF YOUR BAGS each day during the week of November 14-18, 2011.

Note from Mr. Hydo - Winter Concert volunteers needed

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

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

for ongoing information and details on the developing story of the contract between T-mobile and our Board of Education.

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

Send email to :
[Briarlake PTA](#)

PTA Officers:

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

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.

Observation of Religious Holidays

Just a reminder, for families celebrating religious holidays during the 2011-2012 school year that occur while school is in session, please send a note to the front office anytime prior to the day(s) your child will be out of school and your child's absence will be marked as excused. This will eliminate the automated phone call from the County. Any questions, please contact [Dana Gavrielides](#).

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.

5K Time: 8:00am - 3.1 mile

Fun Run Time 8:30am - 1 mile

REGISTRATION: Online registration is available [Here](#)
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 [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.

Theory of Action for Change for DeKalb Schools

The DeKalb County Board of Education last week unanimously approved a Theory of Action for Change for DeKalb Schools, a mission and philosophy statement that outlines how the new School System administration plans to improve student success in every part of the school district.

The Theory of Action for Change calls for creating a culture of accountability among School System leadership and employees; pledges to put more authority in the hands of principals who achieve, while offering more support and guidance for schools that need improvement; and outlines finding new and creative ways to recognize and compensate teachers.

The Theory of Action for Change also creates a framework to build a new district-wide curriculum; provide more transparency of School System operations; and improve how the School System communicates with the community, as well as outlining the oversight role of the Board of Education.

DeKalb Schools Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Atkinson presented The Theory of Action for Change to the Board of Education as part of her 90-Day Entry Plan, which pledged to identify and correct critical issues facing DeKalb Schools. With the Board of Education's endorsement today, Dr. Atkinson will begin to implement the Theory of Action for Change across the School System.

"Today we have a school district with only pockets of success and high achievement, and that must change. We have to transform DeKalb Schools into a true district-wide School System of Excellence," Dr. Atkinson said.

"The Theory of Action for Change is our first step in changing the culture of DeKalb Schools and refocusing all of our efforts toward improving student success," Dr. Atkinson added.

For a copy of the DeKalb Schools Theory of Action for Change or for more information about the DeKalb County School System, please visit www.dekalb.k12.ga.us.

Legislative Forum

Join us to advocate at our "Second Annual County-wide Legislative Forum".

WHERE: DeKalb County Board of Education
Administrative & Instructional Complex
1701 Mountain Industrial Blvd.
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

DATE: November 17, 2011
TIME: 7:00 p.m.

This is a great opportunity for parents across the county to get the latest legislative information that affects our children and schools and talk with our elected representatives about the many educational issues we care about.

REMEMBER! IT IS OUR LEGISLATORS AND SENATORS THAT DRIVE POLICY AND FUNDING FOR OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS!

- Don't underestimate your influence: Legislators pay attention to the issues raised by voters in their communities.
- Don't assume you need to be an expert in legislative advocacy: You are the expert in knowing your child's educational needs and what support your family and community need.
- Stay informed: Once the legislative session starts, things happen quickly. Often there is little notice before an issue comes up for a vote. There will be times when a legislator needs immediate feedback from you on an issue and they don't usually get it! Let your voice be heard on the issues that are important to you NOW!

Click [here](#) for more information.

Lakeside Valhalla Project - Special Offer

As part of a continuing effort to support Lakeside High School's Valhalla Project fund-raising initiative, www.TheValhallaProject.org, Dr. Peter Vanstrom, at Artistic Dentistry of Atlanta, proudly announces an auction of "The Smile of a Lifetime" - up to 75% off a complete smile makeover veneers or ceramic crowns. [Click here](#) for details.

Lakeside Citrus Sale

The Lakeside Band, Chorus and Orchestra will be accepting orders for the best tasting citrus in the nation. (Yes, those wacky Tangelos will be available for purchase as well!!) All proceeds go toward Lakeside's award winning music departments.

Choose from: Navels, Red Grapefruits, Tangelos and Juice oranges in two sizes: small \$20 and large for \$35. We are also offering a large box of Navel/Grapefruit mix for \$37.

Questions? Contact the Citrus Sales Chairs:

[Lisa Bridges](#)

[Carla Boomgarden](#)

[Barbara Haan](#)

[Erica Werner](#)

Sincerely,

Vanessa & Sarah

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

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to salelliott@gmail.com by briarlakepta@gmail.com | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

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



Try it FREE today.