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Briarlake Elementary PTA Newsletter

15th Week of School

2011-2012



Hello Beavers!

Storytelling Night was a huge hit last night! It was great to see so many students attend, several in costume! Thank you to Melissa Forster-Green and Elesha Mavrommatis for organizing this fantastic event!

The Scholastic Book Fair is in full swing and we encourage everyone to stop by. The selection is especially good this year and there truly is something for everyone. It's a great opportunity to get some holiday shopping done while supporting Briarlake.

Thank you to everyone who attended the PTA meeting yesterday morning. There is a lot going on at and around Briarlake, and attendance at these monthly business meetings is a great opportunity not only to stay up to date on events but also to exercise your voting rights as a member of the PTA. We would love to see more faces at our next meeting!

We are really excited about our new affiliation with Home Depot who will be working closely with us on the continued implementation of our campus Master Plan - click [here](#) to view. We will be having a Home Depot Work Day on Friday, December 2nd, from 8-10 am. Home Depot associates will be assisting us in the installation of several of the projects outlined in the master plan and we invite everyone to join us to make our campus even more fabulous!

As for a cell tower update, we are continuing to work to make DCSS, State and T-Mobile contacts aware of the unique and irreplaceable educational resources that Briarlake's campus offers our children, and to prevent the severe negative impact clearing 3600 square feet of our property for a cell tower for the next 30 years will cause. We want to preserve our wooded amphitheater, certified national wildlife habitat, playgrounds and outdoor classrooms, and simply cannot afford for a huge expanse of our campus to be off limits to our children. We encourage everyone to help us preserve our school's valuable educational resources by expressing your views - click [here](#) for contact list. If you have any questions, please contact us at briarlakepta@gmail.com.

We are excited about Thanksgiving luncheons this week! As a reminder, we are no longer accepting reservations for guest meals, but you are more than welcome to sit with your student during his/her designated luncheon. Please note: each class will have their Thanksgiving meal one day only - either Thursday OR Friday. If you are planning to join your student, please double check the schedule below to make sure you are coming on the correct day. Don't forget to bring your meal bags for the CHOA Food Drive when you come to the school.

Don't forget there is NO SCHOOL next week for the Thanksgiving holidays. Enjoy!

School News & Events

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Important Dates

November

Nov. 14-18 Food Drive

Nov. 15-18 Scholastic Book Fair

Nov. 17-18 Holiday Lunch

Nov. 21-25 No School -Thanksgiving Holidays

December

Dec. 2 Home Depot Work Day

Dec. 8 Holiday Program

Quick Links

[2011 - 2012 Family Handbook](#)

[Briarlake PTA Website](#)

[Briarlake Elementary Website](#)

The 2011 Scholastic Book Fair is Here

The Scholastic Book Fair is officially in full swing, and there are a ton of fantastic books and gift items to be had. It's a great opportunity to get some holiday shopping done while supporting Briarlake! The Fair is 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.

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 THIS WEEK. Collection bins are located in the school lobby.

Thanksgiving Luncheon Schedule

Please refer to the below schedule to confirm which day your child's class will be having their Thanksgiving Luncheon.

Thursday, 11/17

11:00 - Davis
 11:10 - Pittman
 11:20 - Francis
 11:30 - DeFrancis
 11:40 - Spencer
 11:50 - Wise
 12:00 - Coker
 12:10 - Taylor
 12:20 - Laster
 12:30 - Bouda

Friday, 11/18

[Briarlake School Calendar](#)

[DeKalb County Schools Website](#)

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 and details on the developing story of the contract between T-mobile

10:45 - Moseley/Warbington
 10:50 - McDaniel
 11:00 - Cernoch
 11:10 - Rich
 11:20 - Foegen
 11:30 - Roseberry
 11:40 - McLarty
 12:00 - Tonka
 12:10 - Winburn
 12:20 - Law

Your Holiday Shopping can Help Support the Briarlake Foundation

The holidays are here...the perfect relaxing shopping experience is right at home, in front of your computer...go to www.briarlakefoundation.org and click on the Amazon link. Your purchases will help support your Briarlake Foundation.



Missing Something?

It may be in our Lost and Found. Check the stage in the Cafeteria to see if your lost item is there.

Home Depot Project Day - Volunteers invited Dec. 2nd!

We are excited that our collaboration with Home Depot is off to a great start. Our first project with Team Depot volunteers will be building 3 outdoor chalkboards/display boards for our outdoor classrooms and outdoor amphitheater on December 2nd at 8am. Parent volunteers are invited to lend a hand assembling. They are also going to work with us to create landscape plans for areas of our campus master plan, lead educational clinics on topics like water conservation and electricity and lots more. This is the start of a wonderful connection with our local Home Depot and we are so grateful for their volunteer support.

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](mailto:Dana.Gavrielides@briarlake.org).

Community News & Events

Textbooks and Instructional Materials on Display

Parents, teachers and lay citizens are invited to examine and participate

and our Board of Education.

Want to be Removed from the Weekly e-Blast?

Do you no longer have a student at Briarlake or just don't want to continue to receive the BES PTA Weekly e-blast at a certain email address? If so, simply click on the "Safe Unsubscribe" icon at the bottom of this email. Please do not send an email to the PTA gmail address asking to be removed unless you have tried to unsubscribe and have not been successful.

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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

in the evaluation of textbooks and instructional materials under consideration for adoption by the DeKalb County School System. Career, Technical and Agricultural Education materials for grades 6-12 are under evaluation. These textbooks will be on display at the Administrative and Instructional Complex (AIC), 1701 Mountain Industrial Boulevard, Stone Mountain, Georgia, 30083 beginning on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 and continuing through Saturday, November 19, 2011. The weekday hours are 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The weekend hours are Saturday, November 19, 2011 from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

EPLC Meeting [This Morning](#) - Nov 16

State Mandates Pave the Road for Classroom Curriculum. What Causes the Potholes on the Path to Local Implementation?

Join ELPC in this timely discussion of State Mandated Curriculum on Wednesday, November 16th at Evansdale Elementary School. Refreshments begin at 8:45am. To join the ELPC mailing list please send an [e-mail](#) You can also [Click Here](#) to visit the website.

Legislative Forum - this Thursday

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.

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.

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

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Try it FREE today.