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Briarlake Elementary PTA Newsletter

17th Week of School

2011-2012



Hello Beavers!

Welcome back! We hope that everyone had a relaxing and safe Thanksgiving vacation! We are getting back into full swing and have a busy next few weeks!

The Thanksgiving luncheons were wonderful, and it was great to share the celebration with so many friends and family members. A big thank you to Mary Margaret Neal for making the cafeteria look so fabulous!

Our Scholastic Book Fair was the biggest and best one yet! A huge thank you to Kristi Steed and her volunteers for all their hard work! And finally, thank you to everyone who brought in meal bags for our CHOA food drive as well as to Laurie Hobbs for coordinating the meal bag collection!

Moving ahead to this week, we hope everyone will join us for Spirit Night at Stevi B's this Thursday. This Friday is our first Home Depot Work Day from 8-10 am. Plan to stay for any or all of the time to help with the installation of some of the projects outlined in our [campus master plan](#). Breakfast will be served.

The Signing Choir will be performing at the Northlake Mall Food Court next Tuesday (12/6) at 6 pm with another performance at Phipps Plaza on Saturday, 12/10 at 10:30 am. Come out and support our talented Beavers!

The K-3rd grade Holiday Program is next Thursday (12/8) at Intown Church at 6:30. Volunteers are still needed to assist with classes during the program. E-mail [Mr. Hydo](#) if you are available to help.

A few more reminders:

- Click [here](#) to view the November PTA Meeting Minutes.
- If you have any outstanding Boosterthon pledges, it's still not too late to turn them in (drop off in front office ASAP).
- There is a Healthy Habits general meeting tonight at Brigitte Clifton's home at 6 pm (children welcome).
- And finally, don't forget to put your sneakers on and participate in Walk to School Day next Wednesday, 12/7!

Have a great rest of the week!

School News & Events

Annual Collection for Custodial and Cafeteria Staff and Families in Need

Annual Holiday Collection for our Custodial & Cafeteria Staff

The Briarlake PTA would like to invite you to participate in our Annual Holiday collection to celebrate our beloved Custodians and Cafeteria staff. If you would like to give a monetary gift, please send a check made out to

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Important Dates

December

Dec. 1 Spirit Night at Stevi B's

Dec. 2 Home Depot Work Day

Dec. 6 Signing Choir - Northlake Mall Food Court 6 pm

Dec. 7 Walk to School Day

Dec. 8 Holiday Program at Intown Church

Dec. 10 Signing Choir - Phipps Plaza Atrium 10:30 am

Quick Links

[2011 - 2012 Family Handbook](#)

[Briarlake PTA Website](#)

[Briarlake Elementary Website](#)

[Briarlake School Calendar](#)

[DeKalb County Schools Website](#)

Briarlake PTA, to the school by Wednesday, December 14th.
Please note in the memo "Holiday Collection".

Briarlake Families in need

The holiday season is a wonderful time to share our own good fortune with those that need a little help. Briarlake has several families who need our support this season. If you would like to contribute a monetary donation to assist members of our Beaver family, please send in a check made out to Briarlake PTA, to the school by Wednesday, December 14th.
Please note in the memo "Family Assistance".

****Please send in two separate checks if you choose to contribute to both funds.**

Spirit Night this Thursday at Stevi B's



Skip the cooking and join us this Thursday, 12/1, from 5-8 pm at Stevi B's for Spirit Night. Students wearing their Stevi B's sticker, receive 2 FREE tokens! Stevi B's will donate 20% to Briarlake for each paid buffet from your fundraiser night. Coupons not valid during Spirit Nights.

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 from 8-10am. 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!

Sagamore Hills Math Tournament

Inviting Students in Grades 3-5

Sagamore Hills Elementary Math Tournament
 January 21, 2012
 9:00am - 12:30pm
 Cost is \$12 per student

Information and registration forms will be sent home Friday, December 2nd.

We are still looking for parents to coach the team ciphering event for the Sagamore Hills Math Tournament. Please email Ms. McMillan if you are interested. For more information or for study materials, please visit

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 and our Board of Education.

Want to be Removed from the Weekly e-Blast?

www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/~sagamore.

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.



Healthy Habits Highlight

It used to be on every kid's yuck list, but broccoli is now a favorite among kids who love the taste of these "little trees." And it's about time; broccoli is packed with nutrients that include antioxidants such as vitamin C and beta-carotene, plus folic acid, lots of calcium, and both kinds of fiber. And local, farm-fresh servings of this super-food will be available in our cafeteria next Tuesday, Dec. 6, as part of Dekalb County's Farm to School Initiative. Talk up delicious, nutritious broccoli in your household, encourage your kids to have a fresh serving on Tuesday, and help them to develop another healthy habit for life! As always, those bringing their lunches from home can add broccoli as a side for only 75-cents.



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.

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

Send email to :
[Briarlake PTA](mailto:PTA@briarlake.org)

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@dekalb.k12.ga.us).



Missing Something?

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

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

Community News & Events

HMS Tours for Parents of Rising 6th Graders

Henderson PTSA will be conducting tours of the campus for parents of rising 6th graders on December 2, January 19 and February 8 and 14. Each of the tours will begin at 10 a.m. and will be followed by a Q&A session with principal, Terese Allen. An evening tour is scheduled for February 2 at 6:30. Please share this information with all parents in our

feeder pattern who have 5th graders. You can forward this message to them so they can mark the dates on their calendars by clicking on the "Forward to a Friend" button on the top right.

DCSS Accreditation News

The DeKalb County School System announced Tuesday it has maintained its accreditation status with AdvancED, the School System's accrediting agency, as it works to complete established steps to improve its operations and prepares for the five-year renewal of its accreditation in March.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council, an accreditation division of AdvancED, recommended that DeKalb Schools remain in the accreditation status of "accredited on advisement" as it completes two of eight actions to improve School System effectiveness that AdvancED recommended in January.

AdvancED praised the School System for completing six of the eight actions this year, including hiring a permanent Superintendent, approving a redistricting and consolidation plan, updating School System operational policies and improving School System communications.

AdvancED recommended that the School System continue working to establish a clear role and line of authority for its internal auditor and complete a strategic plan to guide the future direction of the School System.

Both efforts are underway, and are scheduled to be completed for AdvancED's review early next year, said Dr. Cheryl Atkinson, Superintendent of the DeKalb County School System.

"We appreciate the help and guidance AdvancED continues to provide DeKalb Schools," Dr. Atkinson said. "We look forward to working with AdvancED as we take steps to ensure the School System has an effective, objective and independent auditor, as well as a comprehensive strategic plan to guide DeKalb Schools moving forward."

Dr. Atkinson added that the School System's accreditation is not at risk.

AdvancED visited DeKalb Schools in January after School System leadership recognized areas for improvement and asked AdvancED for assistance and support.

The School System will submit a report to AdvancED by Feb. 15, documenting additional steps it has taken to address the remaining actions. AdvancED will assess those steps during an on-site review of the School System's five-year accreditation status, scheduled to take place in March.

"The DeKalb County School System has demonstrated significant work in developing and implementing actions to move the School System forward beyond its past challenges," stated Dr. Mark Elgart, President and CEO, AdvancED. "With continued work on the remaining required actions and a focus on sustaining the efforts made to date, the School System will continue to repair its reputation and restore trust with its stakeholders."

For more information about the DeKalb County School System, please visit www.dekalb.k12.ga.us.

Lakeside Commemorative Brick Sale - Be a Part of History

Lakeside's new fine arts building is taking shape. Now is a great time to order your bricks and join the Viking spirit! The Lakeside Foundation is creating the opportunity for past, present and future students and families to become a permanent part of Lakeside High School by purchasing commemorative bricks as part of the Lakeside renovation.

Leave a lasting impression of your child or memorable Lakeside event. The bricks will be used in the courtyard between the new fine arts building and the gym. For more information or to purchase your brick(s), Click [Here](#) for link to website for details.

Roundtable Discussion

The DeKalb County School District is pleased to announce that Superintendent Dr. Cheryl L.H. Atkinson will hold a roundtable discussion with faith-based leaders on December 1, 2011. As referenced in her 90-day entry plan, Dr. Atkinson seeks to meet with parents and community members to establish good will, build support and establish communication channels. The meeting will begin at 9:00 am and will be held in the Administrative and Instructional Complex Auditorium, 1701 Mountain Industrial Boulevard, Stone Mountain, GA, 30083.

Friends of Northlake Library Meeting

The Friends of Northlake-Barbara Loar Library group raises money to purchase books and funds special programs at the Northlake branch. Because of DeKalb County library budget cuts the efforts of the Friends have become increasingly important. On December 10th, the Friends of Northlake-Barbara Loar Library will hold a business and information-gathering meeting.

Date - Saturday, December 10, 2011

Time: 1:00 to 2:30

Place: Large meeting room, Northlake-Barbara Loar Library

In this time of deep cuts in the DeKalb County library budget, your time and interest is important.

Agenda

Update new members on the status of the Friends

Discuss the effects of DeKalb County library budget cuts

Review recent donations from Friends? funds

Present financial report

Seek ideas for developing library programs to help our community

Establish standing committees (for example, membership, ongoing used book sale, programs, landscaping)

Select a full slate of officers

Schedule periodic Friends meetings

Please join us for this important gathering as we reinvigorate the Friends and meet the needs of the Northlake library and the community it serves.

Questions? Contact [Gus Strassburger](#).

Sincerely,

Vanessa & Sarah

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

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