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Briarlake Elementary PTA Newsletter

18th Week of School

2011-2012



Hello Beavers!

We hope your week is off to a great start! We were excited to introduce **Superintendent Atkinson** to Briarlake this week. Dr. Culbreath gave her a tour on Monday highlighting our wonderful indoor and outdoor classrooms, teachers, and programs.

The annual K-3rd grade **Holiday Program** is this Thursday (12/8) at Intown Church (2059 LaVista Rd) at 6:30. Children performing should wear dark pants/skirts (jeans are ok) the [designated shirt color for their grade level](#) and arrive by 6:15 p.m.

Please show your support for our wonderful teachers and support staff this holiday season. **Donations** for custodial, cafeteria and support staff as well as donations for families in need donations can be dropped off in the front office or sent in a marked envelope in your child's bag. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

The Signing Choir put on an amazing performance last night at Northlake Mall! Thanks to everyone who came out to support them and an extra-special thank you to our **Signing Choir sponsors, Ms. Cowin, Ms. Steele and Ms. Brashear**. If you missed out last night or just want to see an encore, the Signing Choir will also be performing at Phipps Plaza this Saturday at 10:30 am.

If you have **Expense Reimbursements** to submit and would like to be reimbursed before the holiday vacation, they need to be in the treasurer's drawer in the office by end of the school day Tuesday, Dec 13th.

Briarlake was well-represented at the **DeKalb County Board of Education meeting** on Monday night. Four speakers spoke in opposition to the cell tower siting at Briarlake raising concerns over loss of educational space and potential interference issues for students with cochlear implants among other concerns. If you are interested in reading the minutes from BOE meetings once they are posted, you can find them here <http://www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/board-of-education/meetings-and-minutes>.

Check out our new outdoor chalkboards built by Home Depot staff and Briarlake volunteers this past Friday. We are so grateful for their support of Briarlake and for their help completing the [campus master plan](#).

Have a great rest of the week!

School News & Events

Annual Collection for Custodial, Cafeteria & Support Staff and Families-in-Need

[Annual Holiday Collection
for our Custodial, Cafeteria & Support Staff](#)

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Important Dates

December

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](#)

[Important Carpool](#)

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 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.***

Holiday Program Details

The annual K-3rd grade Holiday Program is this Thursday (12/8) at Intown Church at 6:30. Children performing should wear dark pants/skirts (jeans are ok) specific colored shirts based on grade level and arrive by 6:15 p.m. **Pre-K-** brown shirts and jeans

Kindergarten - yellow shirts

1st Grade-Blue shirts

2nd Grade - Green shirts

3rd Grade - Red shirts

If you do not have the correct color for your child's grade level, a black or white shirt is fine. Please arrive at Intown Community Church (2059 LaVista Rd.) at 6:15 pm. so you child is ready in time for the performance. Children should stay with you until the volunteers are in place. We expect their best behavior throughout this wonderful holiday event.

Great gift idea that supports Briarlake - Menchie's gift cards

Menchie's order forms **due this Friday, December 9th!** Parents can buy Menchie's cards, a great holiday gift - 3 gift cards (worth \$5 each) for \$10. Forms must be turned in by this Friday to the front office and gift cards will be sent home with your child on Tuesday, December 13th. Checks can be made to Menchie's. The order form went home before Thanksgiving but if you lost your form, please email Amy Kirsch (amykirsch@gmail.com).

Sagamore Hills Math Tournament

Inviting Briarlake students in Grades 3-5

January 21, 2012 9:00am - 12:30pm

Cost is \$12 per student

Information and registration forms were 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

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 Update



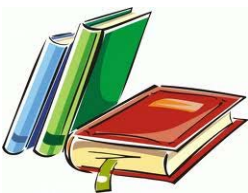
What can you do to help?
[Click here](#) for a contact list to make your voices heard on this issue.

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?

Do you no longer have a student at Briarlake or just don't want to continue to

are interested. For more information or for study materials, please visit www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/~sagamore.



Used Book Sale

January is right around the corner... as you start removing old books to make room for the new, please remember that the Used Book Sale will be taking donations beginning January 4 in the lobby right up until the sale Feb 3rd and 4th. If you'd like to volunteer in January to prep/advertise or for the sale

itself, please contact Heather Hopper at booksale@briarlakepta.org.

Save the Date... Spring Fundraiser

Briarlake's Spring Fundraiser, hosted by the Briarlake Elementary School Foundation, will be held on Saturday, March 24, 2012 at Violette's on Clairemont. This year the BESF is presenting an On-Line Auction with a Reception at Violette's. While at the reception you will have the chance to bid on Class Projects, as well as "surprise" items and special packages.



BRIARLAKE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
FOUNDATION

Please mark your calendars now and line up your favorite sitters for the kids. One more thing...as you are unwrapping your holiday treasures, please keep in mind those gifts that could "keep on giving away" make a great donation to the Auction. We will be accepting donations through March 1st, 2012.

We look forward to seeing you all at Violette's.

www.briarlakefoundation.org

Thank you Home Depot!

We are excited that our collaboration with Home Depot is off to a great start. Team Depot volunteers joined Briarlake parents to build and install 3 outdoor chalkboards/display boards for our outdoor classrooms last Friday. Please check them out by the classroom gardens, on our art/science patio, and in our outdoor amphitheater. Next 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!

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.



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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Briarlake PTA

PTA Officers:
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Vanessa Erens & Sarah Cook
VP Programs -
Elesha Mavrommatis
& Melissa Forster-Green

VP Fundraising -
Amy Kirsch & Lisa Spivack
Treasurer -
Heather Leahy
Secretary -
Trish McElfresh

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

Holiday Basketball Clinic at Lakeside

Interested in working on some basketball skills over the holiday break? Click [here](#) for the flyer.

HMS Book Fair Alert

Do you want to buy some books this week? Maybe for yourself for some relaxed holiday reading? As gifts for your kids or family members?

But, you don't know when you will get to HMS this week for the Book Fair?

Problem solved!

Just shop on-line at HMS' own Scholastic Book Fair site:
<http://www.scholastic.com/schoolbookfairs/2920513>

- The on-line HMS Book fair is open 24/7 until the end of this Friday, December 9th.
- Shop from an expanded book selection for all ages - from preschool to adult - with FREE shipment to the school.
- Purchase books from on-line Teacher Wish Lists.
- Invite friends and family to shop on-line at HMS' Book Fair.

And, yes, ALL on-line Book Fair purchases directly benefit HMS.
And, remember the Pre-Band and Chorus Concert Sales in the Media Center !!

Tuesday, 12/6 (Before 6:30P.M. Band Concert): 5:30P.M. - 6:30P.M.
Wednesday 12/7 (Before 7P.M. Chorus Concert): 6P.M. - 7P.M.

Remember, all in-school and online Book Fair purchases benefit HMS.

HMS Tours for Parents of Rising 6th Graders

Henderson PTSA will be conducting tours of the campus for parents of rising 6th graders on 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.

Lakeside News:

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.

Friends of Northlake Library Kickoff 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.

Questions? Contact [Gus Strassburger](#).

Sincerely,

Vanessa & Sarah

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

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