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# Briarlake Elementary PTA Newsletter

19th Week of School

2011-2012



Hello Beavers!

It's hard to believe this is the last Blast of 2011! We're sure everyone is getting excited for the winter break!

First, hopefully everyone received their new Briarlake Directory. If you would still like to purchase, they are for sale in the School Store for \$5. Thank you **Staci Richards and Melissa Forster-Green** for stepping in to get it finished. It is a huge undertaking and we are so grateful for your work!

We want to extend a HUGE thank you to everyone who donated to the Custodial/Cafeteria Staff and Family Assistance holiday collections. **We have extended the deadline to tomorrow morning.** Your generosity will help some of our families purchase items such as warm coats, food, and toys to help brighten their holiday season. In addition, your donations help show our Briarlake staff just how much they mean to us and how much we appreciate all they do!

As 2011 draws to an end, we want to say how incredibly fortunate we feel to have so many families who are willing to help out, not just during the holidays, but throughout the year. Whether it's through monetary donations or time spent volunteering on committees or at Briarlake events, we appreciate each and every one of you who consistently is willing to go the extra mile to help make our school so unique and amazing. We wish everyone a joyful holiday season and a most healthy and happy start to 2012!

~Reminders:

- Holiday parties are this Friday
- Check Lost and Found this week
- Expense reimbursements due today to treasurers's drawer
- Yearbook photo submissions needed
- Sagamore Hills Math Tournament 1/21
- Don't forget our "Quick Links" to the right

Have a great rest of the week and a wonderful winter break!

## School News & Events

### **Annual Collection for Custodial, Cafeteria & Support Staff and Families-in-Need - **Deadline extended: Tomorrow morning is last day to accept donations****

If you would like to give a monetary gift, please send a check made out to Briarlake PTA, to the school by Thursday, December 15th.  
*Please note in the memo "Holiday Collection".*

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

## In This Issue

[Annual Holiday collection](#)

[Cell Tower update](#)

[Home Depot Volunteer Day](#)

[5K and Fun Run](#)

[Used Book Sale](#)

[Spring Fundraiser](#)

[Important Dates](#)

[Cell tower information](#)



## Important Dates

### **December**

Dec 19 - Jan 2  
Holiday Break

### **January**

Jan 3 - School resumes

## Quick Links

[2011 - 2012 Family Handbook](#)

[Briarlake PTA Website](#)

[Briarlake Elementary Website](#)

[Briarlake School Calendar](#)

[DeKalb County Schools Website](#)

the school by Thursday, December 15th.  
Please note in the memo "Family Assistance".

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

### Cell tower update: Contract details

Dear Briarlake families, this week, we obtained a copy of the contract between T-Mobile and DCSS for a cell tower to be sited at Briarlake. We are seeking clarification about several aspects of the contract, but wanted to share with you what we do know. It appears the proposed location is adjacent to our outdoor amphitheater in the forested area next to the lower parking lot and playground. Original communications indicate that it will be a 60' X 60' area surrounded by fencing, we are seeking clarification to see if this is still the plan as it is not clear in the contract. The PTA co-Presidents have sent a letter asking questions (see below) of T-Mobile and the Board leadership. We will share what we learn. Obviously, we are deeply concerned with the loss of a substantial portion of our school campus, and the recent information we learned about potential interference risks to cochlear implants from the cell tower. We did share both of these concerns with County Board members and will continue to advocate for protecting our ability to serve deaf and hard of hearing children and the preservation of our school educational spaces. We invite you to do the same or to share any questions you may have so that we can try to seek answers. In addition, [No Briarlake Tower, LLC](#) is continuing to gather information and coordinate efforts. See more information below in the community news section.

Questions posed to T-Mobile and DCSS on the cell tower proposal.

1. Where on Briarlake's campus is the proposed site for the tower? Is this set in stone and is there an opportunity to walk with you on our campus to see the area?
2. Is there opportunity for this to be changed if the current site will eliminate a designated use by our school? Our specific concern is over the elimination of our wooded forest area connected to our outdoor amphitheater which appears to be the proposed site location.
3. What will the dimensions of the designated perimeter around the tower? How much land area will the tower and fenced area surrounding it require?
4. Parents have raised concerns about potential interference from the cell tower causing equipment problems with cochlear implants. Briarlake is the County designated elementary feeder school for the deaf and hard of hearing and we have children who use these devices. Implant manufacturers and the county audiologist indicate potential interference given the proximity to the tower. Can you assure us that the proposed cell tower will not cause interference issues for our students? As you can understand, we do not want the addition of the cell tower to prevent Briarlake's ability to continue serving hearing impaired children.

**January 16th - MLK Day is Home Depot Volunteer Day at Briarlake!**

#### 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 Update



[No Briarlake Tower, LLC. organization forms](#)

[www.nobriarlaketower.org](http://www.nobriarlaketower.org)

[Cell Tower contact list](#)

#### 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

Exciting news! Home Depot has selected our school for a multi-store Team Depot volunteer project on Martin Luther King Day! Volunteers from The Home Depot stores will work with Briarlake volunteers on a landscape redesign and beautification of the courtyard outside the cafeteria. They are also donating funds and materials to make this possible. We are so grateful for their support of our school and for the opportunity to turn an eyesore into a showpiece at Briarlake. Come out and lend a hand this MLK Day and make it a day ON! More details coming soon, but please mark your calendar.

send an email to the PTA gmail address asking to be removed unless you have tried to unsubscribe and have not been successful.

### 4th Annual Healthy Habits 5K and 1 Mile Fun

This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, February 25 at 8:30am. Use the holiday break to get an early jump on any New Year's Resolution! Also, anyone interested in volunteering to help with the race, please contact [Chuck Van Horn](#)

### 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 are interested. For more information or for study materials, please visit [www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/~sagamore](http://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](mailto:booksale@briarlakepta.org).

### Briarlake Beaver Yearbook 2011-12- Call for pictures!

Have you taken any pictures at Briarlake or other community events that would make a nice addition to Briarlake's yearbook? The Yearbook Committee is looking for photo submissions from parents. Please contact Heidi Carpenter ([hidc228@aol.com](mailto:hidc228@aol.com)) if you have questions or would like to submit pictures. Remember, the more pictures we get, the more memorable this keepsake will be for our kids! As a reminder, yearbook orders will be placed directly through Treering this year. Stay tuned for information about purchasing yearbooks coming soon.

### Save the Date... Spring Fundraiser

Briarlake's Spring Fundraiser, hosted by the Briarlake Elementary School Foundation, will be held on Saturday,



BRIARLAKE

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

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.



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](http://www.briarlakefoundation.org)

### 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](http://www.briarlakefoundation.org) and click on the Amazon link. Your purchases will help support your Briarlake Foundation.



### 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

### No Briarlake Tower, LLC formed

No Briarlake Tower, LLC. (NBT) is the newest Briarlake Area Civic Association. NBT had a fantastic showing last Monday at the BOE meeting. We were able to network with the Margaret Harris group, individuals from MLK, Jr. HS, Jolly ES, and the DeKalb NAACP. NBT also spoke at this week's DeKalb County Board of Commissioners meeting. We will spoke publicly to bring the BOC's attention and engagement to the dilemma we face with the Board of Education's commercial endeavor on our school grounds. Although we will continue to communicate with the Briarlake PTA on a regular basis, please "like" us at our new Facebook page for updates on progress and what you can do to further this important cause. You may also continue to stay abreast of the work to "Save Our Schoolyard" at [www.nobriarlaketower.org](http://www.nobriarlaketower.org).

Together we can make a difference.

### Basketball League at Briarlake Baptist

Click [here](#) for the flyer for the sign up dates and league information.

## Holiday Basketball Clinic at Lakeside

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

## 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.

## 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.

Sincerely,

*Vanessa & Sarah*

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

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