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Briarlake Elementary PTA Newsletter

22nd Week of School

2011-2012



Hello Beavers!

We hope everyone's 2012 is off to a great start! We are officially back in the swing of things with lots of activities just around the corner.

There was a great turnout last Saturday morning for the No Briarlake Tower Walk to increase awareness about the opposition to the cell tower on our school campus. Several schools were represented and the event got some great media attention. Kudos to Stephanie Byrne and the other NBT Board members for organizing such a great demonstration! Click [here](#) for a video clip from the local news.

You probably have noticed some changes lately to our outdoor campus such as our new outdoor chalkboards and increased signage in our wooded amphitheater. Additional changes are coming soon! We are extremely excited about our upcoming Team Depot day next Monday, 1/16 (MLK Day). There is no school, but everyone is encouraged to come out to lend a hand and be part of this fantastic opportunity Briarlake has been given. See below for details and for volunteer sign up.

Next Tuesday is our first PTA meeting of 2012. **Please note the time change from 7:45am to 6:00pm. We will meet in the cafeteria.

Our Annual Used Book Fair is just a few weeks away and we need your donations! Collection boxes are located in the lobby. See below for additional details.

Reminders:

- Additional Student Directories are available at School Store
- 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!

School News & Events

HUGE Home Depot Volunteer Day at Briarlake - MLK Day!



Please join us on MLK Day for our biggest and best campus beautification project yet! More than 70 associates from local Home Depot stores are expected at Briarlake next Monday, 1/16, to help create our new Cafeteria Courtyard, expand our outdoor classrooms, spruce up existing walking trails, add new planting beds and signage on campus, and much more!!

campus, and much more!!

We need volunteers to help show our support and appreciation.

Team Depot work begins at 8am and is expected to last until around 3pm.

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Important Dates

January

11 - Walk to School Day
 16 - MLK Holiday - NO school & Home Depot workday at Briarlake
 17 - ****PTA mtg 6:00pm (note time change)**
 19 - Henderson Middle Tour 10AM & Chick-fil-A Spirit Night
 21 - [Math Tournament at Sagamore](#)
 26 - School Council mtg 1:00 p.m.

February

1 - Walk to school Day
 2 HMS Tour 6:30 pm
 3-4 Used Book Sale
 8, 14 HMS Tour 10AM
 14 PTA meeting 7:45 am
 17, 20 NO School

Quick Links

No special skills or equipment needed - come out to lend a hand for an hour or stay all day. If you do have shovels and/or wheelbarrows, please bring them. Whole Foods is donating breakfast and lunch on Monday, but snack donations are welcome to show appreciation to all of our volunteers. There will be kid activities such as spreading wood chips, trash pick-up, sign painting, bottle cap artwork and more from 10am-1pm so bring the whole family out!

Please [e-mail](#) and let us know if you will be able to join us on Monday. We hope to see lots of you then!!

Used Book Sale Coming Up!

The Used Book Sale is right around the corner (Feb 3 and 4!). Please go through your bookshelves and basements and toyboxes and donate your unused books, CDs, DVDs/VHS, or other general media over the next 3 weeks. Boxes for donations are in the school lobby and we'll take donations through Feb 2. (If you'd like to be particularly helpful, you can deliver them in bags and boxes). We will take just about anything in decent shape - child or adult. We have a special need for books for older readers, so ask your neighbors with older kids, too. If you have a very large dropoff, please email Heather Hopper at booksale@briarlakepta.org. The better selection we have for the sale, the more money we make! Also, mark your calendar for that sale! Prices remain the same at 50 cents to \$2 for almost everything.



The Used Book Sale committee has a need for volunteers to help unpack, sort, and set up books on Feb 2 from after school to 6pm. PLEASE if you can volunteer even an hour on this afternoon, please contact Heather at the email above.

DeKalb Farm to School Meeting

When: January 18, 6:00- 7:30pm

Location: Oak Grove Elementary School Cafeteria
1857 Oak Grove Road, NE Atlanta 30345
Enter through the front of the building and the cafeteria is straight down the ramp, immediately on the right.

<http://www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/oakgrove/directions.htm>

Before the meeting starts, take a tour of the Oak Grove School Garden from 5:30pm-6:00pm.

Join us for our third farm to school meeting to hear about exciting new farm to school updates and how you can help. At this meeting, we'll discuss:

- DeKalb County School District's Local Monthly Harvest Program
- Farm to School Mini-Grants (Due Jan. 27)
- The DeKalb School District Wellness Policy revision
- Possible ways to increase farm to school communication

Anyone currently involved or interested in getting involved in farm to school

[2011 - 2012 Family Handbook](#)

[Briarlake PTA Website](#)

[Briarlake Elementary Website](#)

[Briarlake School Calendar](#)

[DeKalb County Schools Website](#)

[Briarlake Foundation](#)

Cell Tower Update



www.nobriarlaketower.org

[Cell Tower contact list](#)

Student Absences

If your child has an excused absence, please notify Dana Gavrielides in the front office in addition to letting your child's teacher know in order to avoid the absence inadvertently being marked as unexcused. She can be reached by calling (678) 874-2502 or by e-mail at Dana_M_Gavrielides@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us

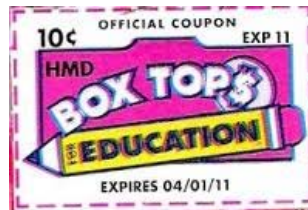
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is welcome to attend. Drinks and light, local snacks provided

To RSVP, contact: Rosalie@eparchitects.com

Class Box Tops Contest!

Submit those Box Tops for Education you have! Include your child's teacher's name, and the class with the most Box Tops submitted between January 9 and March 16 will win a cookies and lemonade party. The submission box is in the front office.



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 Foundation Presents: an Affair to Remember

Mark your calendars now for March 24, 2012 and plan to attend the Briarlake Foundation Spring Fundraiser. It promises to be "An Affair to Remember..."

We are excitedly planning our first campaign to raise funding for your Briarlake Elementary School Foundation with an Online Auction the week of March 19-23. Following the Online Auction will be a reception on March 24 at Violette's to celebrate our success and thank our participants. Book your sitters now. More information will be posted on the Briarlake Foundation website regarding this celebration.

Merci, Briarlake!

Change of Date for Briarlake 5K/Fun Run

The 3rd Annual Briarlake 5K and Fun Run has been changed to Saturday, March 3rd (originally 2/25). Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks.



Green Team News - Recycle Old Cell Phones at Briarlake

By dropping your old cell phone into the collection box in the front lobby, you can help save gorillas! Cell phones and some other electronics rely on a substance called coltan, which is mined from critical gorilla habitat in the Democratic Republic of Congo,

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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

greatly endangering gorillas and other endangered species. In addition to keeping dangerous materials from the landfills, recycling your cell phone at Briarlake reduces the demand for coltan, and 100% of the proceeds go to the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International. In 2010, we collected around 30 used phones for this cause. This year, Zoo Atlanta is partnering with us to offer prizes depending on how many we collect. If we collect 50 phones, Briarlake will be listed as a Call4Gorillas partner, 100 phones gets us an infant gorilla adoption, and 200 phones gets us an original artwork painted by one of Zoo Atlanta's gorillas.

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](#) 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.

Enjoy Briarlake's Outdoor Classroom

Have you visited our Outdoor Classroom lately? It's a great place to explore nature before or after school and on weekends. And since the space is a National Wildlife Federation certified Backyard Habitat, it's a great place to spot wildlife. You can help us attract more wildlife to the area by hanging decorative homemade bird feeders on the trees around the nature trail. Find instructions for crafting such projects [here](#).



Healthy Habits Highlight

This month's featured Farm to School produce is zucchini on Jan. 19. This versatile vegetable is rich in vitamin C and potassium, and it's perfect for those who are a little veggie-shy. These will be fresh from a Georgia farm, which supports our local economy and saves resources in addition to being tastier and at its nutritional peak. As always, featured produce can be chosen with

school lunches at no additional charge, or those who bring their lunches can buy it as a side item for 75-cents.

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 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. Click [here](#) for more information.

Humblebee After School Art Classes: sign up now!

We have a great new Mixed Media Class on Tuesdays after school. (learn print and stamp making, experiment with paint, glue, ink, collage, wood, card making, plus lots more!)

Step-by-step Drawing on Thursdays: our classic drawing class, where anyone can learn to draw and surprise themselves! We color our drawings with water color crayons that turn to paint, when you brush your paper with water. Very cool effect.

Contact [Miss Heather](#) Classes begin next week!

Sincerely,

Vanessa & Sarah

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

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