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Briarlake Elementary PTA Newsletter

23rd Week of School

2011-2012



Hello Beavers!

WOW! Have you seen the Briarlake campus lately?!? It looks like something out of an Extreme Makeover episode! We had an unbelievable turn out Monday for our first big Home Depot Day. We are incredibly fortunate to have the Home Depot investing in our school and our kids! See below for details and pictures of the amazing projects accomplished and find out what you can do to show your thanks! A big thank you also to Whole Foods for donating food and all our wonderful Briarlake volunteers - we could not have done this without you!!

Next week is No Name Calling Week and each day has a special dress up theme. See below for details.

There are a couple of calendar changes we want to point out. The Chick-fil-A Spirit Night that was scheduled for this Thursday (1/19) has been changed to next Thursday (1/26) due to a schedule conflict.

We have added a Campus Beautification Day on Saturday 1/28 from 9-12 to tie up any loose ends and complete clean-up following our impressive Work Day on Monday. Please plan to come and lend a hand.

Reminders:

- Henderson Middle Tour Thursday, 1/19 at 10am
- Sagamore Math Tournament Saturday, 1/21
- Turn in your Box Tops from now through March 16
- Used Book Fair 2/3-2/4 - Donations and Volunteers needed
- Briarlake 5K and Fun Run is 3/3
- The Pre-k Lottery for 2012-2013 seats will be held on April 17, 2012.

Have a great rest of the week!

School News & Events

Big Thanks to Home Depot for a Great Volunteer Day

Over 60 associates from local Home Depot stores volunteered their time and energy to join members of our Briarlake community in creating a fantastic new Cafeteria Courtyard with a beautiful new deck and outdoor chalkboards, new walking path, landscaping and bio-swale. In addition to the Courtyard, our volunteers helped spruce up the front entrance with planters and new border fencing, gave the running track a facelift with new timbers and mulch, cleaned up our walking paths, added stairs and new bench tops in our outdoor amphitheater, carved out a fabulous walking trail through our wooded habitat area with new signage, sitting areas and art

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Important Dates

January

19 - Henderson Middle Tour 10AM
 21 - [Math Tournament at Sagamore](#)
 26 - School Council mtg 1:00 p.m. & Chick-fil-A Spirit Night
 28 - Campus Beautification Day

February

1 - Walk to school Day
 2 HMS Tour 6:30 pm
 3-4 Used Book Sale
 8, 14 HMS Tour 10AM
 13-16 Teacher Appreciation Week
 14 PTA meeting 7:45 am
 17, 20 NO School

March

3rd - 5K and Fun Run

Quick Links

[2011 - 2012 Family Handbook](#)



Team Depot!

created by our student helpers, and much more. Be sure to take some time to walk our campus and see just how amazing the transformation is!

Not only did Home Depot donate a great deal of time and labor on Monday, but they donated thousands of dollars worth of materials and invaluable expertise in design. Speaking of design, be sure to give **Emily Mason** a big hug next time you see her. She is largely responsible for the design of our Cafeteria Courtyard. Briarlake is very lucky to have you, Emily!

We also want to say a huge thank you to **Whole Foods** for donating breakfast and lunch for all of our volunteers! There was a ton of fantastic food, and we are so appreciative of Whole Food's continued commitment to our school.

We encourage all parents and students to write a thank you note, send an e-mail, draw a picture, etc, as a way to show our immense gratitude to Home Depot and Whole Foods for their service to our school. We will be collecting notes in the front office over the next couple of weeks and will deliver them to the stores. Also, the next time you are in Whole Foods or any of the local Home Depots, please take a minute to thank an associate or find the manager and thank them on behalf of Briarlake.

Last, but certainly not least, we want to thank all of our **Briarlake volunteers** who came out on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to help us make this dream a reality for our school:

Sally Elliott, Stephanie and Ed Spencer, Lois DeFrancis, Gregory Goode, The Mason Family, The Cook Family, The Erens Family, The Taylor Family, The Blanck Family, The Byrne Family, Whitney and Rachel Blackmore, Elesha and Noah Mavrommatis, Brigitte and Milo Clifton, The Crooker Family, The Owen Family, The Copland Family, Ginny and Rory Rand, The Gerstle Family, Melissa and Sydney Beaupierre, Heidi and Joy Carpenter, Ann Chahroudi and Giovanni Silvestri, The Steed Family, The James-Ricks Family, Brandon Gardiner, Brian and Rita Illig, The Barrios Family, Cannon Stratigos, Jane and Jeremy Mezoff, The Simon Family, The Van Horn Family, The Green Family, The Spivack Family, Susan Duderstadt, The

[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

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

Iskander Family, The Berkowitz Family, Justine Lyons and Sophie Smith, The Coil Family, The Kirsch Family, Susan and Caroline Bergen, Lisa and Jake Moore, The Kersh Family, The Boise Family, Craig and Lyla Richards, and Kian Baniassad. Please forgive us if we inadvertently forgot anyone!



Kids join Team Depot



Volunteers building the bio-swale

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
3590 LaVista Road
Decatur, GA 30033
Office: 678-874-2502
Clinic: 678-874-2507

Send email to :
[Briarlake PTA](#)



Fruits of our labor clockwise: Emily Mason amidst the new courtyard she designed (thank you!); entrance to the Elliott Nature Trail, Briarlake Beaver builders; volunteers rebuilding the exercise track

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

No Name Calling Week is Next Week

January 25-29, has been designated No Name Calling Week. Name calling is a form of bullying and will not be tolerated. So remember if you can't say anything nice then don't say anything at all. We are asking all students to participate in the following:

Monday

Dress up day: Wear Red, White and Blue -We're United Against

Name-Calling

· Quote: "What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others."

Confucius

Tuesday

Dress up day: Wear your favorite blue jeans- Don't give anyone the blues

· Quote: "You must be the change you want to see in the world." *Mahatma*

Gandhi

Wednesday

Dress up day: Wacky Mismatched Clothing- Name calling is crazy

· Quote: Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you

do are in harmony." *Mahatma Gandhi*

Thursday

Dress up day: Wear a hat- Put a lid on name-calling

· Quote: In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but

the silence of our friends." *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Friday

Dress up day: Wear favorite team jersey- We're all on the same team

Quote: "Respect for ourselves guides our morals; respect for other guides

our manners." *Laurence Stern*

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 - TONIGHT

Tonight Oak Grove Elementary will host the next DeKalb County Farm to School Meeting in the Cafeteria from 6:00-7:30pm. This will be the third countywide farm to school meeting since the group first organized last year. The meeting pulls together parent volunteers, school personnel, and other agency representatives from across the county that are interested in supporting and promoting Farm to School in DeKalb Schools.

The agenda for this meeting includes:

- 1) Providing updates on the DeKalb County School District's Local Monthly Harvest Program
- 2) Information sharing on GA Organics Farm to School Mini-grants
- 3) Discussion of upcoming DeKalb School District Wellness Policy revisions
- 4) Sharing on ways to increase farm to school communication across the county.

Anyone currently involved or interested in getting involved in farm to school is welcome to attend. Drinks and light, local snacks provided.

To RSVP, contact: Rosalie@eparchitects.com

Farm to School Veggie Change

One of the things about planning for farm-fresh veggies each month is that we're at the mercy of the harvest. The zucchini crop failed this month, so Dexter Farms is supplying fresh broccoli for our veggie highlight. Broccoli is very high in many essential nutrients, and tastes great in a variety of forms (ours will be steamed). Encourage your children to choose this super-food, fresh from Georgia farms this Wednesday, Jan. 18. They'll enjoy a nutritious, delicious vegetable that didn't travel 1,000 miles, and this Dekalb Farm to School Initiative supports local farmers and our natural resources.



Spelling Bee

A big congratulations to 5th grader, Zenobia M., on winning the longest-lasting Spelling Bee ever last Friday - 247 words! Second place speller is 5th grader Leila B. Zenobia will represent Briarlake at the District Spelling Bee. Good luck, Zenobia!

Reminder from Safe Routes to School Committee

The SRTS Committee would like to remind all parents to model safe walking and driving habits to their children. Whether you are walking, biking, or driving with your kids, point out that before you turn into traffic, step off a curb, or enter a driveway or intersection, you should actively look left, then right, then left again. Teach this important skill to your children so that it becomes second nature for them as it is for you! Look Left Right Left!

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

ELPC - Change in Meeting Date

ELPC change in meeting date: In order to provide more detailed information about current legislation including updates from our state house and senate representatives we are moving our annual legislative update meeting from January 18th to February 15th at Briar Vista Elementary.

We will send out more information about our guests and topics in the weeks prior to February 15th.

To join the ELPC mailing list please email - emorylavistaparentcouncil-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. You can also visit us at www.emory-lavista.org



Help HMS with Shoe Drive

Henderson Middle School is collecting shoes for Soles4Souls.

To date, they have collected 257 pairs of shoes. Their goal is 1,000 pairs of shoes! Now is a great time to clean out closets!! If you have unwanted shoes, please consider donating them to HMS. The collection bin is located inside the main entrance to HMS. Shoes will be collected until mid-January.

Soles4Souls is a non-profit organization that distributes shoes to people in need in the U.S. and abroad. Each pair of shoes needs to be bound together either by its shoelaces or with a rubber band prior to turning them in. Shoes that cannot be worn any longer will be sent for recycling, even single shoes. Please do not try to clean your shoes. We will accept any and all shoes, with the exception of muddy and moldy ones.

To receive a tax deduction form, please visit www.soles4souls.org.

Thank you for your support.

Free Parent Training Session

Problem Behavior at Home:
Why it is happening and what you can do about it?

Presented by:
Jason Cavin, Director of Behavior Support and Consultation for the Center for Leadership in Disability at Georgia State University and
Emily Graybill, Faculty member in the Center for Leadership in Disability at Georgia State University.

This free training is for parents who are dealing with challenging behaviors in the home. This session is open to school staff too.

Click here to see the flyer and more details about the presenters.

When: Thursday, January 19th

Where: East DeKalb Campus, Large Conference Room
5831 Memorial Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm
6:30- Meet and Greet
7:00-8:00 Session on Problem Behavior
8:00-8:30 Questions

(Parent Only Event - Childcare is not provided)

Sincerely,

Vanessa & Sarah

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

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