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Briarlake Elementary PTA Newsletter

3rd Week of School

2011-2012



Hello Beavers

The pace is picking up and the school year is definitely starting to get busy! We are looking forward to seeing all of our parents at Curriculum Night tonight! Bring paper and a pen to jot down any notes you might want to take - lots of great information will be presented by our teachers and administrators. We really encourage everyone to join the PTA if you haven't already done so (the sooner you do it, the sooner we'll stop asking!). A strong PTA equals a strong school!

There is a lot going on in the county these days as well, and your participation is encouraged. There is a Meet and Greet for the Superintendent candidate this Saturday (stakeholder questions can be submitted early via link below) and a Cell Phone Tower Informational Meeting at Briarlake next Wednesday. It's a great opportunity to learn more and get involved in your school system.

We are very excited about our upcoming Boosterthon Fun Run which kicks off in a few weeks! It is sure to be a big hit for all!

Don't forget to click on the school calendar link to the right and mark your calendars for all the exciting events happening in the coming weeks!

News & Events



Check Out The Fun Facts About Briarlake's New Fundraiser!

The Boosterthon Fun Run is coming September 15th!

The Boosterthon Fun Run is a healthy fundraising alternative to wrapping paper sales and other product sales. Students get pledges towards the number of laps they will run at the fun run and raise much needed

funds for the school. It is kicked off with a Pep Rally on September 6th. All parents are invited to the Pep Rally if you want to learn more about the event. Parents can also come and cheer their kids on the day of the fun run. The two weeks leading up to the run, students get pledges and learn about fitness, leadership skills and character building. Money raised will go directly to benefit our students.

Boosterthon Fun Run Facts:

-This year's theme is Epic Adventure...think Indiana Jones!

-The event is kicked off with a 30 minute school-wide Pep Rally on Sept. 6th and concludes with the Fun Run on Sept. 15th.

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[Cell Tower Documents](#)

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[BES Tower Simulation - 2](#)

-Every student participates in the Fun Run, regardless of pledges raised, and receives a "Boosterthon All-Star" tee-shirt.

-Students will be able to enter their pledges on-line. Each student will have his\her own safe and secure webpage to log in pledges.

-All pledges are tax-deductible!

Want to learn more: [Click Here!](#)

****Kids - Show us your Epic Adventure! Bring in a photo of yourself on an epic adventure and we will put it up on the Boosterthon Bulletin Board. There will be an envelope on the board to drop your photo in as you come in to the school.**

Curriculum Night is TONIGHT

What is Curriculum Night?

Curriculum Night is an opportunity for you to meet with your child's teachers and administrative team. Teachers will be reviewing what you can expect your child to learn during the year as well as their expectations of your child. It is the best time for you to ask questions of the teachers to ensure you know the teachers' classroom rules and goals.



Should my Child(ren) Come to Curriculum Night?

No. This evening is designed for you to learn and ask questions about what your child is experiencing daily. In addition, we expect the building to be very busy, so we ask you not to bring your child(ren).

Volunteer Rally: 5:00-5:50: This is a great opportunity for new and returning families to get information about ways to be involved at Briarlake. Sign up sheets for various committees and events information about after school clubs (Signing Club/Choir, Garden Club, Science Club, etc) will be available. Join the PTA if you haven't already and bring cash or check to purchase Spirit Items. If you didn't get your t-shirts at Open House, this is your opportunity. We have ordered more shirts - in larger sizes, too! - but supplies are limited so don't miss this last chance to get yours. Briarlake water bottles and magnets will also be available for purchase.

What is the Curriculum Night Schedule?

General Assembly: 5:50-6:05pm

Session I: 6:10-6:55pm

Session II: 7:00-7:45pm

- * All homeroom and Special Area teachers will be available both sessions
- * Fifth grade will meet in the Media Center
- * Ms. Fields and Ms. McMillan will meet in Ms. McMillan's gifted classroom
- * Administrative Team and Common Core State Standards Team Representatives will meet in Cafeteria (both sessions)
- *All sessions will be repeated

DCSS Informational Meeting on Cell Phone Tower at Briarlake

DeKalb County School Board member Paul Womack will host a special Q

[BES Tower Simulation - 3](#)

[BES Tower Location Map](#)

[Safety & Health for cellphone](#)



Important Dates

August

Sat., August 27
Campus
Beautification Day
9-12

September

Thurs., Sept 1
Picture Day

Monday, 9/5
No School-Labor Day
holiday

Briarlake Elementary
School
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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

& A gathering for the Briarlake PTA on Wednesday, August 31st at 6 p.m. at Briarlake. In July, the DCSS Board voted to approve cell phone towers at 9 county schools, including Briarlake. This meeting will provide Briarlake community members with details on the project and invite questions. Refer to side bar for links to background information provided by the DCSS on cell phone towers. Additional information will be provided at Wednesday's meeting.

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

PTA Meeting Minutes

For minutes from the last PTA meeting - [click here](#)

Campus Beautification

Come join us for the 1st Campus Work Day of the new school year!

Saturday, August 27, 2011

9:00 - noon

Help make Briarlake a great place to learn inside and out. We will be sprucing up the grounds for the fall. No special skills are required, and kids are always welcome on campus work days. Just bring gloves, rakes, shovels, and wheelbarrows, if you have them. Come out and lend a hand! Email [Stephanie Byrne](#) or [Sally Elliott](#) with questions.

Briarlake Playground Update

The playground is now open! Thank you for your patience while we awaited the new supply of wood chips. Some of the structures have also been lowered to increase accessibility and reduce distances to the ground. The maypole lowering required new concrete so it will be reopened once the concrete fully sets. Again, thank you for your understanding during this time.

Teacher Conferences

Just a reminder, our teachers are always happy to talk with you about your child, answer questions, etc, but if you need to speak with a teacher, please make an appointment. Most teachers are quite flexible and can offer time at the beginning or end of the day with some notice. Just send an email or call and leave a message to schedule. Please avoid "drop ins" - even if just for a minute or two...our teachers need this time to prepare for the day, read e-mails, etc. Thank you!

DeKalb County School District Announces Superintendent Finalist Meet & Greet

The DeKalb County Board of Education is pleased to announce that the board's finalist for superintendent, Dr. Cheryl Atkinson, will visit with parents, community members and others on Saturday, August 27, 2011. Dr. Atkinson will share her vision for the school system and meet with parents, community leaders and other DCSD stakeholders.

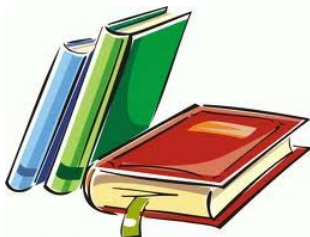
What: Meet and Greet with Dr. Cheryl L. H. Atkinson, superintendent finalist DeKalb County School District

When: Saturday, August 27, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Where: DeKalb County School District Administrative Complex (AIC), 1701 Mountain Industrial Blvd, Stone Mountain, Ga., 30083

Dr. Atkinson will give a brief overview of her vision for the school system and answer questions submitted by community members.

DCSD has developed a [link](#) for stakeholder's questions (located below and on the DCSD website). The link will be live from noon Monday, August 22, 2011, to noon Friday, August 26, 2011. Stakeholders will also have an opportunity to submit questions at the event. Cards will be distributed from 8:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m. on Saturday, August 27, 2011.



Looking for Book Buddies

Calling all book lovers! Briarlake's Book Buddy program is recruiting Beaver parents to work one-on-one with budding readers. All it takes is an hour a week to make an impact. Email [Loretta](#) to learn more.

Picture Day

Thursday, September 1st is our Fall Picture Day. We will be taking individual shots only; we are doing the group class shots in the spring this year. The pictures will be taken in the media center so it will not be a sack lunch day as last week's blast indicated. There are no forms to send in and no money will be collected on picture day. We will photograph every student and then send home their proof with a purchase order envelope within a month or so. The pictures will be back in plenty of time to give as holiday gifts and Briarlake benefits from the proceeds. As always, please wear vivid colors and prepare to look marvelous!



2011-2012 PTA Reflections Contest

"Art is not what you see, but what you make others see." ~ Edgar Degas
Unleash your artistic talents!

The theme for 2011 is - DIVERSITY MEANS ...

The categories are: Literature, Musical Composition, Photography, Visual Arts, Dance Choreography, and Film/Video Production

All entries are due to the front office by Friday, October 14, 2011. For more information on Reflections [click here](#).

This program is all about creative interpretation of the theme. Use your imagination and get busy! Show us what "Diversity Means ..." to you!

Whitney and Holly

Green Team Tip of the Week

As the weather cools, you can maximize your dollar and save resources by opening your windows at night instead of keeping the air conditioning going. At bedtime, try talking to your children about night-time sounds such as frogs, crickets, grasshoppers, wind (and trains!). What can they see from their windows at night? Observing the outdoors at different times helps kids connect with nature and appreciate cycles and the cooler side of the season.



Green Team Needs Help

The Green Team is still seeking parents or teachers to lead the classroom recycling each week. Please contact [Brigitte](#) if you're interested in helping out.

Last Chance to Buy Water Bottles

The remaining water bottles will be for sale at curriculum night, which will be your last chance to purchase these very cool "spirit bottles" until Fall Festival. Bottles are BPA-free, dishwasher safe, and feature measurement indicators so you can keep track of how much healthy water your child is drinking. Plus, they're only \$5 and support the Green Team's projects and the PTA.

Healthy Habits Highlight

Plan for your kids to eat a school lunch this Friday so they can enjoy farm-fresh, juicy, delicious watermelon! Georgia-grown produce will be offered in the cafeteria at least once a month as part of Dekalb County's Local Produce Farm-to-School Initiative. Eating local-grown produce supports Georgia farmers and reduces fossil fuels and other waste required by packing, preserving, and transporting produce from hundreds of miles away. It's also healthier because fresher foods retain more nutrients, and local tastes better!

Did you know that, depending on who you ask, watermelon is considered both a fruit and a vegetable? It comes from a flower and contains seeds like a fruit, but its gardening needs are that of a vegetable, and in some cultures, it is grilled or pickled like a vegetable. Also, watermelon is rich in vitamin C, beta carotene, and lycopene.

For those who bring lunches from home, the watermelon will also be available for purchase as a side item for 75-cents.

Study Shows Benefits of the Walking School Bus

Have you been thinking of joining the Walking School Bus? [Read this article](#) in the journal Pediatrics and you'll be convinced to try it.

Community Theater Production

You have a school mate performing in the Theater Works production

"How to eat like a Child and Other Lessons in Not Being a Grown-Up" on stage in the fellowship hall of Oak Grove United Methodist Church.

Friday evening , August 26th 2011 at 8:30 PM

Tickets are \$9.00 at the door.

Briarlake will receive \$3.00 for every seat sold to a member of Briarlake including parents, teachers, grandparents friends!

Come out and support you school and your friends and help raise funds for Briarlake!

Sincerely,

Vanessa & Sarah

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

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