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Briarlake Elementary PTA Newsletter

4th Week of School

2011-2012



Hello Beavers

First of all, thank you to our dedicated teachers, staff and administrators for all the work they put into making Curriculum Night last Wednesday an informative and enjoyable evening for all! Thanks to our Committee Chairs and parent volunteers for welcoming new families and providing volunteer opportunities to them.

A big thank you is also in order for the families that came out Saturday morning and volunteered their time and their hands for Campus Beautification. You really make Briarlake look good!

DeKalb County School District hired a new superintendent this week - see below for link to press release for more details. There is a Community Engagement Session coming up on Tuesday, 9/20, to gather stakeholder input on the future direction of our school district. As always, we encourage everyone to stay informed and involved in what is happening in our school system.

A few reminders of events happening at Briarlake in the coming weeks...

There will be a Cell Phone Tower Information Meeting this evening at 6:00 at Briarlake, hosted by DCSS Board Member, Paul Womack.

School pictures are tomorrow, 9/1

There is a BESF Information Session tomorrow evening, 9/1

Boosterthon officially kicks off at Briarlake next Tuesday, 9/6. Mark your calendars for the Fun Run on Thursday, 9/15!

Mark your calendars for our first PTA meeting and Ice Cream Social on 9/13.

School News & Events

Picture Day is Tomorrow!

This 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. 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!



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

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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.

-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.**

DCSS Informational Meeting on Cell Phone Tower at Briarlake

DeKalb County School Board member Paul Womack will host a special Q & A gathering for the Briarlake PTA **tonight** (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.

Here's the Scoop...

This year's PTA Ice Cream Social will feature yummy frozen yogurt with all the fixings!

Come out on Tuesday, September 13th



[Simulation - 2](#)

[BES Tower Simulation - 3](#)

[BES Tower Location Map](#)

[Safety & Health for cellphone](#)



Important Dates

August

Wed., 8/31
Cell Tower
Information Meeting
6pm

September

Thurs., 9/1
Picture Day
BESF Information
Session, 6:30pm

Monday, 9/5
No School-Labor Day
holiday

Wed., 9/7
Walk to School Day

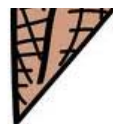
Tues., 9/13
PTA Meeting
Ice Cream Social
6 - 7pm

Thurs., 9/15
Boosterthon Fun Run

Briarlake Elementary
School
3590 LaVista Road

from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria and show your Beaver pride! It's sure to be 'Sprinkled with Spirit' - the class with the most attendance will win a prize.

Can't wait to see you there!



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

Send email to :

[Briarlake PTA](#)

**Of course, we are in need of volunteers to help scoop ice cream and sprinkle toppings. If you are available to assist, please contact [Melissa Forster-Green](#).

Briarlake Foundation Information Session

YOUR Briarlake Elementary School Foundation (BESF) is having one more informational session this week: Thursday at 6:30pm in the cafeteria. Please come and let your voice be heard. If you require additional information, please feel free to contact [Michelle](#).



New Superintendent Chosen

The DeKalb Board of Education officially ratified the contract of superintendent finalist Cheryl L. H. Atkinson, Ed. D. According to the terms of the contract, Dr. Atkinson will begin her service as DeKalb County School District Superintendent on

September 15, 2011. Please [see attached](#) release.

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

Thanks to the Campus Beautification Crew

Thanks for all the hard work at the Campus Beautification Work Day! We had help from the Hopper, Cook, DeFrancis, Gerstle, Seufert, Burdette/Sapp, DeStefano, Piercy/Mitchell, Byrne, Hedges, Crane, Veras, and Cohen Families. We tackled weeding, pruning and mulching. It was hard work, but it really pays off with the enjoyment and pride our children and community have in our school.

Handy People Alert! We need help securing the landscape timbers on our walking paths, if you have a drill with a ½" bit and/or a sledge hammer please contact Stephanie Byrne at SLBYRNE@bellsouth.net



Young Clean Up Helpers

Observation of Religious Holidays

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](#).

Fish-Friendly Helper Needed

Our Fish Lady, Heather, is still looking for someone to help her with maintenance of the fish tank. No experience needed. Please email [Heather](#) if you can help.



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

Community Engagement Session

The DeKalb County School System is re-establishing a strategic planning process and invites you to participate! It is vital that we hear from our stakeholders on the future direction of the school district before the plan is developed.

What: A Community Engagement Session to gather input from stakeholders

When: Tuesday, September 20th, 6 - 9:00 p.m.

Where: The DeKalb County School System Administrative and Instructional Complex (AIC) Auditorium, 1701 Mountain Industrial Boulevard, Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Who: All DeKalb County School System stakeholders are invited to participate.

To Attend: Please RSVP by calling 678-676-0023 or by email: research@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us. If you need an interpreter in order to

participate, please notify us of your specific needs when you RSVP.

An on-line survey will be available for those who can't attend the meeting. A link to the survey will appear on the district's website immediately following the meeting.

Community News

2nd Annual Golf Tournament

The Music Department at Henderson Middle School is hosting their 2nd annual Golf Tournament on Friday, September 30th at Heritage Golf Course in Tucker! Tee-off is at 1 p.m.!! Registration ends September 23rd. All proceeds will go toward the purchase of instruments, equipment, guest clinicians, music, etc to support the music program! For more information and to register, [click here](#).

Sincerely,

Vanessa & Sarah

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

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