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Briarlake Elementary PTA Newsletter

5th Week of School

2011-2012



Hello Beavers

Hope everyone had a wonderful Labor Day weekend despite the rain! We have a full blast as there are a lot of things happening at Briarlake and in our community so make sure to check out the Important Dates Link on the right and scroll all the way down to the bottom to avoid missing anything.

We are getting really excited about Boosterthon - the students had a blast at the kick off pep rally yesterday! If you haven't already, mark your calendar to come out for the Fun Run next Thursday.

Spirit Night is this Thursday at the North Druid Hills Chick-fil-A. Bring your appetite and come show your Beaver Spirit between 5-8pm.

Next Tuesday is our first PTA meeting at **7:45 AM** in the cafeteria. We are trying something new this year...some of our PTA meetings will be held in the mornings to allow for greater attendance. We have a packed agenda with a presentation from Cafeteria Manager, Ms. Crabtree, on the Farm To Table Initiative and a School Lunch Program Q&A session, updates on the Cell Phone Tower, Boosterthon and Fall Festival, and much more.

And last, but certainly not least, next Tuesday is our first fun family event of the year - the ever popular Ice Cream Social from 6-7 pm. Don't miss out on the fun!!

School News & Events



PTA Ice Cream Social

Join us for our annual PTA Ice Cream Social next Tuesday, September 13th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. It's sure to be 'Sprinkled with Spirit!' This year's Social will feature yummy frozen yogurt with all the fixings. The class with the most attendance will win a prize!

Volunteers Needed!! Our Ice Cream

Social is one of the favorite events of the year, but we need some help in order to make this a success. We still need 8-10 volunteers to scoop and sprinkle. It just takes about an hour of your time and makes the kids really happy! Please e-mail [Melissa Forster-Green](#) if you are able to help.

Can't wait to see you there!

Don't Cook On Thursday...It's Chick-fil-A Spirit Night!

Come on out for Spirit Night on September



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[DeKalb County Schools Website](#)



Important Dates

September

Wed., 9/7
Walk to School Day

Wed., 9/7
Safe Routes to
School Meeting 5pm

8th, 5-8pm at the North Druid Hills Chick-fil-A. Have dinner, visit with friends and play "Back To School Bingo" for cool prizes. Part of the proceeds from the night will go to Briarlake Elementary so invite friends, family, and neighbors for a fun dinner out!



Boosterthon Update!

This week the Boosterthon Team will come into your child's class for 5-7 minutes each day. They will talk about team building and encourage the student's to get pledges for the Fun Run. Don't forget to ask your kids about the Boosterthon and what character building traits and action items they are learning about each day! The track for the Fun Run is small so it's easy & fun for all

students. Most students can make it around the track about 25-30 times. At the Pep Rally students received pledge info with a website to make it easy and safe to track your pledges.

Mark your calendars for the Fun Run on Sept. 15th! Here is the schedule so you can plan to come out and cheer on your child:

PK & Special Needs - 8:30am
K & 1st - 9:15am
2nd & 3rd - 10:30am
4th & 5th - 11:45am

Safe Routes to School Meeting This Week

The Safe Routes to School committee will be meeting in the Briarlake Cafeteria on Wednesday, 9/7 (tonight) at 5 p.m. All interested parties are invited to attend. We will be discussing the International Walk to School Day in October plus other topics related to encouraging walking and biking to school. For more information, please contact [Valerie Ringo](#).

PTA Membership - Final Call!

We need 66 more members by the end of September to meet our target. Just a reminder that relatives, neighbors, friends - anyone - can join for just \$5. We strongly encourage every adult in the household to join. [Christy Van Horn](#) will be at the Ice Cream Social to accept new memberships.

Parent Conference Week Starts Sept. 12

Please make it a point to schedule a conference with your child's teacher sometime during that week. Information re: conferences should have come home in the Friday, September 2 courier. For those who need an after hours appointment, staff will be available on Tuesday, September 13 from 3:30-5:30. Check with your child's teacher if you need an after hours appointment on another date.

We expect each parent to meet with the teacher(s) so they can be

Tues., 9/13
PTA Meeting -
7:45am
Ice Cream Social
6 - 7pm

Thurs., 9/15
Boosterthon Fun Run

Wed, Sept 21
ELPC Meeting at
Henderson Middle
8:45am

Reflections

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

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Lisa Spivack
Treasurer -
Heather Leahy
Secretary -
Trish McElfresh

adequately informed on exactly where their child is and where they are expected to be by certain benchmark dates in the year. We are taking a closer look at where students are and how they grow academically during the school year. We are monitoring progress more closely now and making sure that students are keeping pace with the expected growth for their grade level.

Teachers are prepared to explain your child's oral reading fluency level and their goal for the year, the stage in spelling and writing, the level of instruction in reading and math and how students were grouped for maximum instructional impact, results of the 2011 CRCT and areas of strength and weakness and much more.

Some key questions teachers are also prepared to answer include:

- Is my child successful? How do I know? If not, why and what can we do to make them successful?
- How will you provide my child with additional help? How often will they receive this help and for how long?
- How will I know if the help is beneficial? What can I do to help at home?
- How are you helping my child enrich and extend their learning experiences?

Thank you for your support of our Briarlake teachers and staff!

Fall Pictures : Important Information



Picture Day went extremely smoothly last week, thanks to Nicole Spiro and her fantastic volunteers, Heidi Carpenter, Stacey Davis, Debbie Gerstle and Aquinas Elam.

If your child missed picture day on September 1st, don't worry, we will be scheduling a makeup day for pictures around the end of September (date TBD). Makeup pictures will still make it into the yearbook and you will still receive your pictures in plenty of time for the holidays. We will be sending picture order envelopes home with two proofs to choose from within a week or so. If retakes are necessary, they can be done on makeup picture day as well - just make a note on your order envelope and turn it in by the due date so we can get your child on our makeup picture list.

*Please note that the way your child's name appears on the order envelope is the way the name will appear in the yearbook so please let your teacher know if you want your child's name to appear differently.

The Mystery of Book Buddies Solved!

What is a book buddy? Who's qualified? If you're a PTA member with an hour a week to commit to improving our students' reading skills, you're perfect for the job! After a few quick tips you'll be paired with a student who needs a little extra help. Each week during school hours you'll spend 20 minutes of one-on-one time with a student guiding and supporting them as they read to you. Spend an hour a week and help two students excel! Right now teachers are selecting



students to participate, so click [here](#) to sign up or email [Loretta Vanni](#) if you have any questions.

Community Engagement Sessions

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](#). 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.

Emory Lavista Parent Council Meeting - State of the System Address

Join Dr. Atkinson, our new Superintendent, as she presents the State of the System on Wednesday, September 21st at Henderson Middle School. Refreshments begin at 8:45am. To join the ELPC mailing list please email - emorylavistaparentcouncil-subscribe@yahogroups.com. You can also visit us at www.emory-lavista.org

Register Your Kroger Card

Remember to register your Kroger shopper's card at RewardYourSchool.com to be eligible to win extra Box Tops for Briarlake. When General Mills offers Bonus Box Tops on products throughout the year, Briarlake will automatically receive them when you buy the products and use your shopper's card. You can refer to the site to see what products have bonus offers at any time.

Healthy Habits Highlight - Breakfast for Champions

We know that eating a well-balanced breakfast is especially important to developing bodies. How will your family run the Boosterthon or even walk to school without a good breakfast? Studies also show that children who eat a healthy breakfast tend to show improved academic performance, longer attention span, better attendance and decreased hyperactivity in school.

What's a healthy breakfast? It doesn't have to be typical breakfast food-it can even be leftovers from dinner. But it should include a serving from at least 3 food groups (fruit, veggies, grains, dairy, or protein). Try whole grain cereal with fruit and low-fat milk, whole grain toast with fruit and peanut butter, scrambled eggs with veggies wrapped in a tortilla, or even some rolled slices of turkey, cheese, and carrots. Mastering this healthy habit is a great way to start your family's day fueled for brain and body well-being all day long.

Sincerely,

Vanessa & Sarah

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

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