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Briarlake Elementary PTA Newsletter

6th Week of School

2011-2012



Hello Beavers

What an exciting week at Briarlake! We had a great turnout at our first Spirit Night at Chick-fil-A last Thursday. Last night's Ice Cream Social was a huge success - thank you to Elesha Mavrommatis and Melissa Forster-Green as well as all of their volunteers for making things run so smoothly!

Thanks to everyone who attended yesterday's PTA meeting. It was nice to have such great participation! A special thanks to Ms. Crabtree, our School Nutrition Manager, for providing us with a lot of great information about Farm to Table and our school lunch program.

Official minutes of the PTA meeting will be available soon, but one important piece of business discussed was the Dekalb County School Board of Education approved contract with T-Mobile to place a cell tower on the Briarlake Elementary School's campus this year. The PTA membership unanimously voted to adopt a resolution to oppose the tower siting at Briarlake yesterday. See more details below.

Just a reminder, the Boosterthon Fun Run is tomorrow, and the kids are really excited! Plan to come out to cheer your child on!

School News & Events



Boosterthon

Boosterthon Fun Run is tomorrow (9/15)! Let's keep our fingers crossed for good weather! We encourage everyone to come out and cheer on our students. The Fun Run schedule is as follows:

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

Thanks to everyone for your support. The kids have had a blast so far, and the Fun Run is sure to be the most exciting day yet!

Whole Foods Gives 5% Back to Briarlake

Great News! Whole Foods Briarcliff Selects Briarlake for 5% Donation Day! Save the Date & your shopping for [September 21st](#).

We are excited to announce that Whole Foods Briarcliff will donate 5% of net sales to Briarlake's Gardens & Outdoor Classroom on Wednesday,

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Important Dates

September

Thurs., 9/15
Boosterthon Fun Run

Wed, Sept 21
ELPC Meeting at

September 21st. Please save your grocery shopping until next Wednesday and help support this great opportunity. Whole Foods is also offering some exciting activities throughout the afternoon including a FREE interactive kids demo - Make Your Own Snacks Trail Mix; The Great Shampoo Swap - bring any conventional kids shampoo to swap for a bottle of Kiss My Face Shampoo while supplies last, FREE samples and kid-friendly TASTINGS throughout the store, FREE reusable better bag with goodies to the first 30 kids, and a chance to win a class party catered by Whole Foods for the class with the most participation! Talk it up, tell your neighbors, and plan a special trip to Whole Foods on September 21st to show your support for Briarlake's gardens and outdoor classroom. More details will be in the Friday folders. Thanks!

Fall Festival - Saturday, October 15th

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



(Craft Show is from
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

Fall will be here soon,
and what better way to
kick off the season than
with the 16th Annual Fall

Festival, presented by the Briarlake PTA. The Festival is great fun for everyone and is open to Briarlake families, friends and the community.

Come for games, kids crafts, inflatables, delicious food, a haunted house, a craft show - and much more! Your classroom is most likely already working on a beautiful piece of art to display at the Classroom Craft Auction, so be ready to bid! Plan to come out for a fantastic Saturday and create some very special family memories!

With so many activities, we need plenty of volunteers - so please [click here](#) to volunteer for a shift on the day of the festival. Volunteers receive a lunch coupon to use at the Briarlake cafe the day of the Festival and will be entered into a raffle as well! Please note, you will receive confirmation of your time slot and assignment approximately 1 week prior to the Fall Festival.

Have a business you'd like to feature as a sponsor for the festival? If so, please contact our sponsorship coordinator, [Leslie Chiabotti](#).

All proceeds from the Festival benefit the PTA and are used to support school activities.

We look forward to seeing you there!
Carolyn Hansen and Angela Pilcher

Directory Ad Space Available

Briarlake Elementary is offering a wonderful opportunity to promote family and local businesses within the Briarlake school community.

We invite all businesses, as well as Briarlake family businesses, to advertise in our 2011-2012 Student Directory to be published this fall. We have so much talent and resources within our community, this is a great way to make that known. Advertising in the Student Directory offers just a one-time advertising cost with a yearlong period of frequent and widespread exposure!

Henderson Middle
8:45am

October

Wed., Oct. 5
International Walk to
School Day

Fri., Oct 7 & Mon.
Oct 10
NO SCHOOL

Cell Tower Info



[Informational Flyer](#)

ITBS Testing

The ITBS testing
schedule for this year
has just been made
available by the
County.

[1st Grade](#)
[Grades 3 & 5](#)

Reflections

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

Briarlake Elementary
School
3590 LaVista Road
Decatur, GA 30033
Office: 678-874-2502

Clinic: 678-874-2507

Ad sizes and pricing are listed below.

- Business Card Size (3 ½ x 2 ¼ inches) = \$30.00
- Half page (4 in. wide x 5 in. tall) = \$50.00
- Full page (8 in. wide x 5 in. tall) = \$100.00

If you are interested in placing an ad, please contact [Melissa Forster-Green](#). We look forward to working with you!

Safe Routes to School - Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to assist with planning and carrying out International Walk to School Day activities (Wednesday Oct 5). Even a small contribution of time on the day of the event would be helpful. For more information please contact [Valerie Ringo](#). Thanks!



Fall Pictures / Due Date Correction



Angie Whitaker's studio did a great job on our students' pictures! You should have received your picture order envelopes last Friday. Please note that the due date is incorrect; the correct due date will be Thursday, 10/6.

Another correction is that makeup/retake pictures will be before the order envelopes are due so please email me or tell your teachers if you want retakes; you don't need to write it on your order envelope. Because the photographer is giving a month to make our picture order selections, orders will strictly be due, with payment by check included, on 10/6. Only makeups and retakes orders will be accepted after 10/6.

We will begin to accept picture order forms with payment on Monday 9/26. There will be a labeled collection box in the front office, or forms can be turned in to your teacher. The makeup/retake picture day is TBA and should occur the last week of this month. Please let us know if you will need retakes before makeup/retake day so we can get your child on our retake list. We already have record of the students who missed picture day and need makeups.

Please remember to include your check for payment in your picture order envelope and please write your child's name on the memo line.

Thanks,
[Nicole Spiro](#)

School Store

The school store is now open Tues-Thurs, 7:40 - 8:00 am. We are looking for one or two more volunteers to take on Monday mornings (2 shifts/month), then we can open every day. There is new merchandise arriving all the time, with plenty of fun things to brighten up your kids' desks and attitudes! Come check us out, and all proceeds benefit the PTA. Contact [Ellen Kersh](#).

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

Help Needed for Briarlake Families

Greetings Briarlake Parents,

First of all, let me say: Thank you. Thank you for your tireless support of all of our students at Briarlake Elementary school. You have been so supportive of the counseling department in the past. I feel comfortable asking you for your support again. We have a few families attending our school that are in financial need. They have not asked for anything, however, I would like to help them.

For those of us that are blessed to have the ability to meet the needs and wants of our children, I would like you to consider donating one of these items. I would like to ask you to donate one of the following toiletry items: soap, detergent, deodorant, toilet paper, paper towel, toothpaste or lotion.

Collection boxes will be placed in the lobby of the school starting this Thursday.

I want to end this letter by thanking you again. Thank you for taking the time to read it, and whether you are able to give or not, know I deeply appreciate your dedication to your child and our school.

Sincerely,
Dr. Candice Norris-Brown
Guidance Counselor

T-Mobile Cell Tower Update

The Briarlake PTA passed a resolution at Tuesday's General Body Meeting opposing the siting of the T-Mobile cell tower at Briarlake over concerns that its 3600 square foot footprint will cause a significant detrimental impact to our playgrounds, playfield, limited parking, outdoor classrooms, walking trails, and other educational spaces at our school. The full resolution language will be available in the PTA meeting minutes once they are posted on the PTA website.

A group of Briarlake parents has created a [flyer](#) to provide more information to our community.

Reflections 2011 - Let Your Creativity Shine!!

Do you love to draw, write stories, take photos, dance, make videos, or compose music? Here is your chance! Let your talents shine by participating in Reflections, a national PTA arts recognition program. The theme for 2011 is "Diversity Means...." You may enter creative work relating to this theme in any of six areas: literature, musical composition, photography, visual arts, dance choreography, and film/video production. Each category has different guidelines that need to be followed very carefully. In previous years, we have had to disqualify some great entries that were larger than allowed, that lacked an artist's statement, or didn't meet other requirements-don't let this happen to you! Copies of the general Reflections guidelines, and the detailed rules for each category, are available in the Media Center. Reflections information and forms are also available on the Georgia PTA [website](#).

Healthy Habits Highlight

On Wednesday, September 21, fresh, Georgia-grown gala apples will be on the lunch menu as part of Dekalb's Farm-to-School initiative. Kids can choose this healthy treat from a Georgia farm with their school lunches, or those who bring their lunches may purchase the fruit for 75-cents. Celebrate gala apple day on Sep. 21 by wearing red and/or yellow to school and enjoying a healthy, delicious locally-grown apple at lunch.



Remember that 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!

Community News & Events

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@yahoogroups.com. You can also visit us at www.emory-lavista.org

2nd Annual Golf Tournament

The Henderson Middle School Band program is hosting the 2nd annual Golf Tournament on Friday, September 30th at Heritage Golf Course in Tucker! Tee-off is at 1 p.m.!! To build our program (the largest middle school band in the county), parental and community support is crucial. Instrumental music programs in DCSS middle schools receive limited assistance for new instruments, guest clinicians, etc. from the school system. If you love music and/or hope your child will be in the HMS band in the future, join us on the golf course!! If you aren't a golfer, you can help by telling your friends about the tournament and by sponsoring a hole or making a donation! One of our prizes is a one hour private lesson with a golf pro from the Edwin Watts Golf Academy on Piedmont Road!! All proceeds will go toward the purchase of instruments, equipment, guest clinicians, music, etc to support the band program! Registration for the golf tournament ends September 23rd. For more information and to register or donate, see the attached [flyer](#) or visit www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/henderson.

Sincerely,

Vanessa & Sarah

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

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Briarlake Elementary PTA | 3590 LaVista Road | Decatur | GA | 30033

