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# Briarlake Elementary PTA Newsletter

9th Week of School

2011-2012



Hello Beavers

Hope everyone is enjoying the cooler temperatures! What a fantastic sight to see so many Briarlake families participating in International Walk to School Day today! Now that fall weather is upon us, we hope you will make walking or biking to school a regular part of your routine. Thank you Valerie Ringo for coordinating all of the Walk to School Day activities and volunteers and to Police Officer Whaley, and our two local Fire Fighters for helping to lead our walkers safely to school. Way to go!



A few special notes of thanks this week - to Ms. DeFrancis' and Mr. Taylor's classes for bringing in delicious food for the teachers for September's Terrific Thursday and to all of our Campus Work Day volunteers who came out on Saturday. You keep our campus looking beautiful. Thank you also to all the Briarlake PTA members who attended the Board of Education meeting on Monday to show support for preserving our school yard for our children's educational use.



Have a fantastic week! Remember No School on Friday and Monday - enjoy the long weekend!

## School News & Events

### Directory Ad Space Available - Deadline Oct 7th

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!

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](#) by October 7th. We look forward to working with you!

**Picture order envelopes due Thursday, 10/6!**



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[2011 - 2012 Family Handbook](#)

[Briarlake PTA Website](#)

[Briarlake Elementary Website](#)

[Briarlake School Calendar](#)

[DeKalb County Schools Website](#)



### Important Dates

#### October

Thurs., Oct 6  
Picture Orders Due with payment

Friday, Oct 7  
Directory Ad Deadline

Fri., Oct 7 & Mon. Oct 10

Picture order envelopes, with payment, are due this Thursday, 10/6. The due date of 10/8 on the order envelopes is incorrect. Late orders will be subject to a \$5 late fee. Students who got retakes or makeups last Wednesday, 9/28, will receive their proof order envelopes sometime next week. Please note that the retake picture will be the one used for the yearbook and for ordering pictures. If your child got retakes, you may not go back to your original proofs from 9/1.



Please turn your picture order envelopes in, with payment, by this Thursday, 10/6, to the box in the front office or to your teacher.

Nicole Spiro  
School Pictures  
[thespiros@bellsouth.net](mailto:thespiros@bellsouth.net)

### Fall Festival Needs You - Saturday, October 15th

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



Those of you who have been around know how much fun the fall festival is for the kids and the adults! For the festival to be a success, we need over 150

volunteers. **WE NEED YOU!** If you are new to the school, this is also a great way to get involved and meet new families.

**Please click here** to volunteer for a shift on the day of the festival. We provide many activities including games, food, crafts, inflatables, a zip line, a hay ride, Haunted House, and more, so lots of fun volunteer options. 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.

All proceeds from the Festival benefit the PTA and are used to support school activities. Feel free to reach out to the Fall Festival Co-Chairs or the Volunteer Coordinators if you have questions.

We look forward to seeing you there!

*Carolyn Hansen and Angela Pilcher, Fall Festival Co-Chairs*  
*Susan Bergen and Paige Fitts, Volunteer Coordinators*

### Thank you for making Briarlake a great place to learn inside and out!

Thanks to all of the following families for a great work day: Hopper, Piercy, DeFrancis, Elliot, Byrne, Spencer, and Sica. We were few in number but strong in heart. We couldn't do it without you!  
Your Campus Beautification Co-chairs,  
Stephanie Byrne and Sally Elliot

### After School Art Classes

NO SCHOOL

Sat., Oct. 15  
Fall Festival

#### Cell Tower Info



Read the [press release](#) recently issued by the PTA.

What can you do to help? [Click here](#) for a contact list to make your voices heard on this issue.

Please continue to check out the website [www.noBriarlakeTower.org](http://www.noBriarlakeTower.org) for ongoing information and details on the developing story of the contract between T-mobile and our Board of Education. If you would like to receive updates via e-mail, send an e-mail to [Stephanie Byrne](mailto:Stephanie.Byrne@briarlake.org) to be added to the distribution. Your help and time in this matter are greatly appreciated.

[Informational Flyer](#)

#### CoGAT Testing

The Cognitive Abilities Test will be given on Monday, October 3, Wednesday, October 5 and Thursday, October 6. Please do not schedule any appointments until after

Second session of Humblebee after school art classes begins next week: drawing, mixed media, and crochet and knitting. Contact Heather: [hsotack@yahoo.com](mailto:hsotack@yahoo.com)

## NO LEFT TURNS INTO THE SCHOOL DURING CARPOOL!

Please be aware that we had 2 accidents last week due to people trying to turn left during afternoon carpool. Please tell sitters, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends that there is **no left turn into the Briarlake driveways** in the morning as well as in the afternoon.

Please, no more left turns!



## Green Team Needs Your Tubes

Your paper towel, TP, and other tubes can make great fodder for our annual Fall Festival marble run. Drop your tubes in the marked bin by the front door before Friday, October 14. It's a great way to reuse, and all recyclable materials will be recycled afterward.



## Get Your Briarlake Spirit Wear

Briarlake spirit wear shirts are available for purchase in the school store for \$12. Come by and get one before your size is no longer available - there will be no additional reorders. These are great for Spirit Nights, field trips, school events, and anytime you want to show your Beaver pride!



## Job posting - Crossing Guard LaVista & Frazier

The DeKalb County School System is currently seeking applicants for a crossing guard position at the intersection of Frazier Road and LaVista Road, to assist Briarlake Elementary children and families in walking or biking to and from school. This is a wonderful opportunity for someone with a flexible daytime schedule to be involved in the safety and well-being of Briarlake Elementary students. Interested parties should visit the DeKalb County School System website to apply on-line, and may also contact Officer Smith, crossing guard liaison at the DeKalb County Police Department, at 678-676-1810 for information about the position requirements, applicant qualifications needed, etc. For additional information about the Briarlake Elementary community, contact Valerie Ringo, Briarlake Elementary PTA Safe Routes to School Coordinator, at 404-771-0398 or email [vringo70@gmail.com](mailto:vringo70@gmail.com).

## International Walk to School Day Photos!

11:00 a.m. for these three days. Also, please make sure your child is at school on time and ready to go!

### Carpool Reminders

For the safety of our children and staff, there should be **NO CELL PHONE USE** while in carpool.

There is **NO LEFT TURN** into carpool line from Briarlake Road.



Also, while we love animals, please refrain from bringing your pets to school during arrival and dismissal.

Thank you for your cooperation!

### 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

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

## Community News & Events

### DCSS Parent Roundtable Meetings

In accordance with the new Superintendent's 90-Day Entry Plan, you are invited to participate in one of the following Parent Roundtable discussions that will be held throughout the school district. They will be held on the following days:

Thursday, October 20	McNair High School	7:00 P.M.
Tuesday, October 25	Columbia High School	7:00 P.M.
Thursday, October 27	Dunwoody High School	7:00 P.M.
Tuesday, November 1	Miller Grove High School	7:00 P.M.
Thursday, November 3	Stephenson High School	7:00 P.M.

[Click here](#) to read the official invitation from DCSS. You may also visit the [DCSS website](#) for more information!

### DCSS Strategic Planning Survey On Line

The DeKalb County School System is re-establishing a strategic planning process and invites you to participate! We want to hear from you regarding what you want your public schools to provide for students, what the schools are doing well, and what challenges the schools and students face. The input that you provide on [this survey](#) will be used to revise the district's strategic plan for approval by the Board of Education in February 2012. All survey responses are anonymous.

Sincerely,

*Vanessa & Sarah*

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

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