

# Brassfield Bugle

Issue No. 3

Newsletter of the Brassfield Road Elementary PTA

November 29, 2006

## Important Dates

Nov. 30th – Eat at CiCi's for Brassfield

### **December**

1st - School Colors Day

1st – Teacher/Staff Luncheon

8th – Holiday Cookie Platters & Peace Frog Day

15<sup>th</sup> – Wacky Spirit Day

22<sup>nd</sup> – Holiday Vacation begins



## **NO MORE EMERGENCY LUNCH FUNDS**

*Avoid surprise at the checkout line!  
Be sure your child's lunch account is funded.*

**With** busy lives and occasional mix-

ups, it is not surprising that every single day someone's child ends up in the cafeteria checkout line without money in their lunch account or their pocket. Some days nearly a dozen Brassfield students find themselves in this predicament. In the past, there has been an informal lending system by generous staff members. That is no longer possible. As part of WCPSS's continuing efforts to ensure tight fiscal control, this type of informal lending account can no longer be operated by the staff. No child, however, will be sent away hungry at lunch. WCPSS policy provides a modified lunch of unlimited servings of fruits, vegetables, and water to any child with insufficient funds to purchase the regular school lunch. The WCPSS lunch rules will require a student without funds to surrender the food they chose and accept the alternative lunch. The cafeteria staff has been ordered to comply with the WCPSS procedure.

**Upon** learning of this change, the PTA Board asked the Principal for permission to temporarily operate an alternative, more formal, lunch borrowing program while it gathered data on how many children routinely need lunch "loans" and to what extent these "loans" are repaid following notice to the parents. After 6 weeks, the Board found that only about one-third of lunch borrowings were repaid, and that 85-90% of the students in the school never had a need to borrow. Given this data, and the PTA's broad mission, the Board has determined that it will not recommend to the membership the establishment of an on-going lunch borrowing program for all students. **The last day that the PTA's temporary program will make emergency lunch "loans" is Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**If** you or your child will be upset by a "fruit and vegetable only" lunch, please check your child's account balance ASAP. If you do not know your child's account balance, you can check with Cafeteria Manager Tiffany Holden, [tholden@wcpss.net](mailto:tholden@wcpss.net). **Also, every time your child's balance drops below \$5, you will receive a note home reminding you of the low balance.**



## Math and Science Extravaganza

Please volunteer to help out with this school year's Math and Science Extravaganza, scheduled for March 16, 2007. The date does seem a long way off, but now is the time to do some initial, minimal footwork. Contact Tama Berriman ([tama@nc.rr.com](mailto:tama@nc.rr.com)), and come to an introductory meeting at the school on December 5th, 9:30 am.

Also, if you know of anyone who would be a good guest exhibitor from our community, please contact Tama now. In the past we have had doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, naturalists, recyclers, meteorologists, astronomers, veterinarians, nutritionists, crime scene investigators, animal rescue centers, physicists, computer technicians, mathematicians, archaeologists and more. Our students love all types of exhibitions, from walk-by displays, hands-on exhibits, to formal presentations.

### **Sweets for the Sweet**

*We love our Brassfield teachers and staff. Each year we have the opportunity to reward them with some holiday baked goods. If you would like to contribute to the annual cookie platters contact your homeroom parents.*

### **Read With A Child Who Needs You**

The Great Leaps Tutoring program still needs parent volunteers. You can spend 30 minutes one morning each week helping young students learn to read. Contact Sara Mims, [saramims@hotmail.com](mailto:saramims@hotmail.com).

**BIG NEWS ON BACK**



## Reflections Deadline Extended

**Attention** students, teachers and parents! Great news! The Reflections deadline has been extended until **January 2nd!** Now you have even more time to create a work of art that expresses, "**My Favorite Place**," this years' theme.

The Reflections contest recognizes 6 different areas of art: dance choreography, music composition, literature, art, photography, and film/video production. Specific guidelines for each area and entry forms can be found on the Brassfield website under PTA programs, and also in the media center. If you have questions, please e-mail Morgan Magdanz at [morganwm@nc.rr.com](mailto:morganwm@nc.rr.com) , or call her at 841-1783.



**December's TOPS Challenge** will work for everyone. Here's the scoop, **20 holiday goodie bags** will be drawn at the end of the month. Send in any number of TOPS to be in the drawing! We need those TOPS. Ask Grandma, ask your neighbor, ask everyone to save those TOPS for you!!! Every TOP makes us closer to the TOPS IN TOPS goal of 30,000. We can do it with everyone's help! Top contributing student and class will receive trophies. Bring in 50 tops or more and get a ribbon. Have a question about Box TOPS, contact Mindy at [MindyLMcG@aol.com](mailto:MindyLMcG@aol.com) .

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### Brassfield PTA Meeting Did Not Have Quorum *Meeting Must Be Held Again*

The November 14<sup>th</sup> PTA general membership business meeting was scheduled for 7pm. However, **only 17 PTA members (mostly teachers)** were present, which forced the board to cancel all voting on important issues and continue with an informational format. This is unfortunate. Lack of interest in business meetings places our PTA in jeopardy of violating state and national procedures. In order to comply, we must schedule a make-up meeting with quorum. All PTAs are required to hold a specific number of business meetings each year. The PTA board will give 30 days notice for the next business meeting. Please help our PTA to continue its success. Your PTA has received numerous awards for its programs. ***Your support is needed to continue to strengthen this important part of our children's school.*** This business meeting included details on the "We Love Brassfield Walkathon 2006" fundraiser and concerns about the Emergency Lunch Fund. The PTA board will again present important fundraising information at the next PTA meeting. The board has voted to discontinue the Emergency Lunch Fund.

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### PEACE FROG PROGRAM LEAPS FOR SUCCESS

Brassfield students continue to impress teachers with their support of the Peace Frog character education plan. Congratulations to all our Peace Frog Award recipients for November. Check the PTA website for more details [http://brassfield.wcpss.net/pta/brassfield\\_pta/index.htm](http://brassfield.wcpss.net/pta/brassfield_pta/index.htm)

### *CiCi's Spirit Night*

*Brassfield Elementary will receive a portion of all meals purchased by our families at the CiCi's on Strickland Road, tomorrow, November 30<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to mention Brassfield.*

Also, keep eating at Moe's every Tuesday through December. Brassfield will receive 20% of your bill.

## CANS FOR KIDS!

The holidays are approaching and many families in our community need your help. Brassfield's annual Food Drive is underway. Please send in nonperishable food items. All donations will go to the Helping Hands Mission. The food drive will end **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH**. Our goal is to collect **one ton** of food. Look for additional information in your child's folders each week. Thank you for your support.



### *Attention Holiday Chefs*

*The December 1st Teacher/Staff Luncheon will be sponsored by the PTA Board and Committee Chairs. If you would like to contribute a dish please contact [susanking@nc.rr.com](mailto:susanking@nc.rr.com) .*

### *Great Gift Idea*

*Brassfield shirts and hats are available in the school store. They make great gifts for students and relatives.*

\*BRASSFIELD BUGLE: PTA Monthly Newsletter

