

Brassfield Bugle

Issue No. 5

Newsletter of the Brassfield Road Elementary PTA

January 31, 2007

February Calendar

- 1 – Kindergarten Registration 9:30am – 4pm
- 2 – 2nd grade parents cook for teachers & staff
Spirit Day (Wear Blue & Gold)
- 5-9 Cultural Arts Writing Program
- 6 – Spirit Night / Cozumel (Mexican) & Wildflower (Pizza)
School Board Votes on Plan
- 9 – Peace Frog Day (Wear PF or green shirt)
- 13 – PTA Meeting / Track-Out Fair 7pm**
- 14 – Valentine’s Day
- 15 – Cultural Arts, Einstein Visit
- 16 – School Spirit Day (See Weekly for details)
- 19 – No School (Teacher Workday)
- 23 – Return Math/Science Entry Forms
Box Tops Day

Your Money At Work

Your contributions to the PTA programs at Brassfield are making a difference in the quality of our children’s education. You’ve seen how your dollars are used to support programs like the Math/Science Extravaganza, Super Kids Day, Writers in Residence, Odyssey of the Mind and much more. However, you may not be as familiar with how the extra funds improve our school’s equipment.

Following the “We Love Brassfield Walkathon 2006”, the PTA’s first purchase from our staff “Wish List” was seven digital cameras, one per grade level, plus one for the media center. Our students are using these cameras to take pictures and download them into various class projects. Our teachers and students are thrilled with the new technology.

Our teachers are also very excited that **white boards** have been given top priority on the Wish List. A vendor has been selected to replace our chalkboards with white, erasable boards, and the initial cost estimate of \$11,000. **Because chalk has become a health concern in the school environment, this is truly a fantastic gift to our children.** Following the white board installation next month the PTA will determine if funding is available to purchase the \$1,000 soccer goal that was destroyed by vandals in the fall.

Beyond the walkathon the other things you do have been bringing in funds to your school. Store cards and spirit nights have been great! This is what we have recorded in the budget so far. **Moe’s is not yet recorded.**

Store Cards

Target	312.69
Harris Teeter	463.84
Food Lion	94.33

Spirit Nights

Goodberry's	54.61
Six Forks Cinema	37.00
CiCi's Pizza	133.50
Milton's	204.87
Red Hot & Blue	<u>18.00</u>
Totaling	\$1,318.84

And
Box Tops **\$2,808.20**

We are also receiving funds from companies that match volunteer hours. We have received **\$200 for Intel and \$500 for GlaxoSmithKline**. If you work for a company that has this program, you might want to turn in hours and earn money for our school.

As funding becomes available we will continue to chip away at our school’s “Wish List” providing excellent tools for our classrooms.

Questions, Answers & Options

PTA TRACK OUT FAIR

February 13th 7pm

We’re all trying to plan for changes in the Wake County School System. The PTA wants to help your family. **Come join us at Brassfield Elementary for the PTA meeting and Track-Out Fair on February 13th. A.E. Finley YMCA, Raleigh Parks and Recreation, Dead Broke Farms, Right Time Kids, Bright Horizons, Write More Education Resources, Lee Brothers Tae Kwon Do, Factory Ice House and SportsCenter, Explore!, Exploris, Asbury Kids Out, plus other full- and part-time camp vendors will be able to answer all your track out time questions!**

We’ll have drawings for prizes, popcorn and balloons. Unload some frustration. This event will be informative and fun.



Latest Results of PTA Fundraising Survey

Recently, the PTA sent home a survey on the kind of fundraisers Brassfield parents want to support in a year-round setting. Here’s a summary of the results: **146** surveys completed; **116** want to continue the annual walkathon; **77** want only the walkathon, but **79** would like to purchase student art projects; **52** would enjoy an event, like a carnival; **43** like the idea of a silent auction; and **65** were willing to work on the fundraiser. A majority of those responding are not interested in buying and selling products, like candy and gift wrap.

BIG NEWS ON BACK



Brassfield Box Tops Record Set

January's TOPS IN TOPS student trophy winner was **2nd grader Brian Bailey from Mrs. Thompson's class!! He brought in 523 TOPS! This is a record for the TOPS program!** The rest of the TOP grade prize winners were 4th grader Emma Furr with 197 TOPS; 3rd grader Katherine Schudy with 160 TOPS; Trevor Davis a 5th grader with 128 TOPS; Evyn Carden a 1st grader with 89 TOPS; and Kindergartener Conor Mulligan with 62 TOPS! You all make our school TOPS!



Box Tops Fun Math Facts!

**This year, we have collected 21,738 Tops so far!
AWESOME JOB!**

We have 8,262 to go before June 1st!

How can we reach our goal?

Each student needs to bring in 13 TOPS and we can do it!

We have collected 72% of our goal of 30,000!

Which grade has brought in the most TOPS? The second graders!! They have brought in 4,551 TOPS!

To Date We Have Earned over \$2,800 For Our School

Brassfield Students Honored In Reflections Contest

Congratulations to Jacob Katzenstein (Piercy, 4) and Timothy McWilliams (Bethel, 2) for receiving honorable mentions at the Wake County PTA Council level of the National Reflections Contest! Over 1000 K-12 entries were forwarded to this level, so to be recognized is a huge honor.

Jacob and Timothy will have their work displayed at the **March 22, Wake County PTA Reflections Awards Ceremony at Ligon Middle School**. Their photography entries will then go through another round of judging to see if they will proceed to the state level competition. Good luck, guys! Your Brassfield family is so proud of you!

All of Brassfield's fabulous entries will be displayed at Brassfield's May 8th PTA meeting. All of the talented students who participated in Reflections will receive their county certificates and Brassfield recognition at that time.

Questions/ concerns: Morgan Magdanz,
morganwm@nc.rr.com

The PTA Needs YOU

Are you interested in serving on your Brassfield PTA Board for the 2007-2008 school year? Let us know what position you are interested in. Check out your PTA Website for board positions. If interested email Liseley@nc.rr.com or Lkatzenstein@nc.rr.com.

Students Served by PTA Cultural Arts

There are two exciting Cultural Arts events on the February calendar. During the week of **Feb. 5-9, Arianna Ross will be working with the third grade** children on their writing skills. Ms. Ross is a storyteller, writer and teacher who spent three years in India and now travels the US teaching and performing. This program is made possible by our PTA and is supported by a grant from the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, Inc., with funds from the North Carolina Arts Council, a state agency, and Wake County Government and the Wake County Public School System. Actually, Marc Spiegel will be bringing his program, "Einstein Alive".

On Thursday, Feb. 15, Einstein will be visiting Brassfield to our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. Posing as Einstein, Mr. Spiegel will discuss his life, struggles and theories using song and audience participation. This program is funded by our PTA.

What's Next For WCPSS? Timeline

***Feb. 5 – Public Hearing, 6:30pm**, for families who have been added to the 2007-08 growth management proposal or who have had children assigned to a different school during the Jan. 26th Board of Education work session.

***Feb. 6** - The school board will vote on the final Growth Management Plan.

***Feb. 7** - Families may view all their assignment options, including magnet options and calendar options, on the school system's website. Each node in the county has designated magnet and calendar options in addition to a base school assignment.

***Feb. 12-28** - Families assigned to a year-round school could apply for a traditional calendar, and those assigned to a traditional school could apply for a year-round calendar. There will be separate applications offered for magnet schools and for calendar options. All applications will be completed online through www.wcpss.net in order to provide faster processing and notification to families. The Magnet Resource Center and Growth Management Office will offer assistance in completing applications. Special assistance will be available for non-English speaking families as well.

***Feb. 13** Brassfield Track-Out Fair to help Families Plan.

***February** - The Board of Education will determine in February which schools will have direct or express bus service.

***March 15** - Families will be notified of the results from their magnet and calendar applications and their track assignment (if year-round).

***April 13** – Deadline to accept or decline the magnet or calendar options as a result of application. If declined, the child must attend his or her base school.

Dear Parents,

Below are several changes to the proposed 2007-08 Assignment Plan made Friday, January 26th in a work session. The Board took votes to direct growth planning to change the proposal. Impacts to District 3 schools are below.

1. Bedford nodes

288.3 at Brassfield proposed to move to Durant Elementary--dropped move from the plan--stay at Brassfield.

288.4 at Wildwood proposed to move to Durant Elementary--dropped from the plan--stay at Wildwood.

653 at Lynn Road proposed to move to Wildwood changed to Durant--middle school changed from Wake Forest to Durant

2. Wakefield/West Millbrook Middle to Durant Middle

The reassignments from Wakefield and West Millbrook Middle Schools to Durant Middle Schools dropped from the plan--stay assigned to respective school with year round option as Durant Middle.

The plan moved some of Brassfield Elementary base students to a year round middle school--some, not all. I got mixed feedback--parents with middle and high school didn't want it, and parents with elementary and middle did. Another issue I reviewed was the need to fill Durant Middle with 1430 students to ensure enough students for the four track team teaching units. Wakefield Middle was not converted to year round since year round seats would be available at Durant (and Heritage) Middle. After the plan is finalized, **it is critical that parents that want Durant Middle apply on line February 12-28th--there will be seats available that need to be filled.**

3. Dillard Elementary to Durant Elementary

Moved node 070.2 from Dillard to Durant=78 students projected in the node. Presently ESL students from this node attend Durant.

4. Carnage Middle to East Millbrook Middle

Leave node 525.0 at Carnage instead of moving to EMMS.

The Board was given a draft of potential locations for traditional calendar options in addition to program magnet schools:

Elementary

Aversboro – 50 seats (Rand, Timber)

Briarcliff – 47 seats (Salem, Adams, Oak Grove, Turner Creek, Olive Chapel)

Creech – 38 seats (Barwell, East Garner)

Fox Rd. – 75 seats (Harris Creek, River Bend, Durant, Wilburn)

Holly Ridge -115 (Ballentine, Holly Grove, Holly Springs)

Lincoln Heights – 30 seats (Willow Springs)

Lynn Road – 71 seats (Brassfield, Green, Pleasant Union)

Penny Road – 49 seats (Baucom, Olive Chapel)

Reedy Creek – 125 seats (Carpenter)

Rolesville – 307 seats (Jones Dairy, Sanford Creek, Wakefield)

Smith – 239 seats – Middle Creek, Vance, West Lake

Stough – 60 seats – Brier Creek, Leesville

Wake Forest –154 seats - North Forest Pines, Heritage

Wakelon- 375 seats – Hodge, Knightdale, Lockhart

Weatherstone – 104 seats – Green Hope, Highcroft, Morrisville

Middle

Apex-97 Lufkin, Salem

Davis- 81 Salem

Dillard-70 West Lake

Reedy Creek-159 East Cary

West Millbrook-Durant

Wake Forest-67 Heritage

Zebulon-59 East Wake

(Did not list Wakefield or East Millbrook, I will try to find out next week.)

The Board has added a public hearing for parents added to the plan this Friday, and the plan will be finalized at our next Board meeting on February 6th.

I know that many of you are not supportive of changes that are in the plan--conversions to year round have been controversial and reassignments especially of Wildwood to Fox are also. I have, however, appreciated the continued discussions with many of you and I have been very proud of the professional way parents in District 3 have approached this debate.

Thanks,

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