



BEECH TREE PTA NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2010

Message from the President...

Welcome back from what I hope was a terrific spring break for everyone! Hope everyone is excited about spring and the last few fun events at Beech Tree for this year!

First, I want to thank ALL the volunteers who help throughout the very busy month of March! But I want to give a few special "shout outs" to Amadie Hart who brought us another GREAT turn out for a **BINGO Night**, and Dedra Kassy, Cecili Thompson Williams and Joyce Gendell for all their hard work pulling the **March Madness Basketball** game together. And of course all who came out and helped make our **Fun Fair** yet another HUGE success! And especially to the core Fun Fair team Suzanne Palmer, Jane Lesko, Maureen Kiser, Laura Coates, Maria Ferrante, Linda Manning and Danine Welsh. Between the 3 events we raised over **\$8,000** for PTA supported activities!! These funds will ensure that all classes get at least one field trip, we have cultural assemblies, teachers have access to training programs, the 5th grader get a grand send off graduation party and so much more!! It all looked pretty easy didn't it? Well...to make it look that easy, there were A LOT of folks working very hard! So all I can say is **THANK YOU**...it was a **FABULOUS** month!

Our second annual SCA talent show is next up! Every year it is a wonderful event that allows all our talented students take the stage and show off their unique and diverse talents. Please plan to come on April 20 at 6:30 to watch and support our many talented students.

We are also looking for someone who would be willing to head up our annual "Spring Fling Night". **Spring Fling** is our school's annual evening "dance" where the kids (and their parents) have pizza and listen and dance to all their music and dance favorites. Need I say "the chicken dance"?! It is a really fun evening and is an easy activity to "cut your teeth on" if you're looking to take something on and want to start out easy! Please contact me (kewirth@hotmail.com) or Joyce Gendell (joyce@gendell.com) if you think you might be interested.

It is that time of the year when we hand-off a few key PTA Board and committee chair positions. The Board Positions have been spoken for (see article later in this Newsletter)!! But we will be losing a number of committee chairs to "graduation" and shifting. As a result we have many other open positions that we really need to fill. Our thanks to the individuals who've offered to serve as committee chairs for the next year, and we encourage our newer families to lend your talents to a leadership role! Please contact me (kewirth@hotmail.com) or Joyce Gendell

April

- 6 Spring Picture Day
- 6 Talent Show Practice in Gym, 4 pm
- 7 PTA meeting, 7 pm in cafeteria. Topic: Renovation plans
- 15 Partners in Print, 6 pm in cafeteria
- 19-23 Library Book Fair – need volunteers!
- 20 Talent Show
- 21 Book Fair ice cream social and art walk
- 22 Take your Children to Work Day
- 28 Advanced Academics Center Orientation, library at 6:30

May

- 5 Spring Choral Concert, 6:30 pm in gym (PTA meeting prior to concert)
- 6 Field trip to Baltimore (tentative)
- 7 2nd grade and multi-age trip to Reston Zoo
- 10 Kindergarten Orientation, 2pm in cafeteria
- 12 Spring Instrumental Concert, 6:30 pm in gym
- 15-21 SOL Testing. Please make sure students are in attendance!
- 19 Principal's Coffee, 6:30 pm in library. Topic: Bullying and its Prevention
- 20 First Grade Field Trip to Imagination Stage

(joyce@gendell.com) if you think you might be interested in taking on a committee chair position or helping out in other capacities.

We've done and are still doing a lot as a PTA and my thanks goes out to all of you who helped to pull all of this off. See you Wednesday, May 5th at 6:30 for PTA Board elections followed by the Spring Choral Concert!

Karen Wirth, PTA President

PTA Board Elections

On behalf of the Beech Tree PTA nominating committee, it is my pleasure to present to you the slate of officers for the 2010/2011 school year:

- **President:** Karen Wirth
- **Vice President:** Suzanne Palmer
- **Treasurer:** Rachel Burgess
- **Secretary:** Jane Lesko

Please join us on May 5th right before the spring concert; we will have a very brief meeting to thank our retiring 5th grade parents and to elect our new officers.

Other PTA committee positions are open. Let me know if you are interested in helping out. We can find something to fit every schedule! Send me (Joyce Gendell) an email at joyce@gendell.com or give me a call at 703-532-8788.

Keep our PTA strong and vote on May 5th.

PTA Minutes

April 7, 2010

By Jane Lesko

PTA President's Report:

- Karen noted that Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) will make recommended family life education (FLE) objectives, media, and print material available for community review from Tuesday, April 6, through Monday, May 3, at the Sprague Center, Annandale, VA. Materials may be reviewed from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays from April 6 through May 3. Contact Pepsi Vongprachanh at 703-503-7495 to schedule an appointment. Recommended media will be aired on cable Channel 21 beginning at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20. Viewers will be informed during the program as to how they can offer feedback to their School Board members
- The Fair Oaks District Station is sponsoring a Child Safety Symposium on Friday, April 9 from 7 pm till 9 pm at the Fair Oaks Church, 4601 West Ox Road, Fair Oaks, VA. The forum will offer powerful, eye-opening presentations by detectives from the Child Exploitation and Child Abuse Units and the Fair Oaks Station Crime

Prevention Officer. The evening is geared toward adults and it is not recommended that attendees bring children. Learn more about the myths and realities of "stranger danger", what you can do to investigate your child's online persona, and other vital tips on keeping children safe

Principal's Report:

Terry Phillips provided a list of calendar dates. [See page 1.]

Teacher's Report:

- Ms. Abu-Rish noted that students participated in the Beech Tree Reads Program before spring break. This program is sponsored by our business partner TD Bank. Each student chose a book to read and add to their home personal library. These books were marked on the inside with a special sticker. The book does not need to be returned. Students will receive another book of their choice in June.
- Beech Tree Staff will be sponsoring an ice cream social on Wednesday, April 21 in conjunction with the book fair. The cost will be \$1. The profits will go towards books for some of our students to read and add to their personal libraries over the summer.

- Ms. Valentine is looking for volunteers to help with the Library Book Fair. If you are able to help with the set up on April 16th or during the week of April 19th, please contact Ms. Valentine at ellen.valentine@fcps.edu.

Treasurer's Report:

David Chesnick reviewed the budget that was provided.

PTA Vice President's Report:

Joyce Gendell noted that following parents have been nominated for the 2010/2011 Beech Tree PTA Board:

President – Karen Wirth

Vice President – Suzanne Palmer

Treasurer – Rachel Burgess

Secretary – Jane Lesko

The election will be held during the first five minutes of the Spring Choral Concert on May 5th at 6:30 pm.

A Coordinator and volunteers are needed to help run the bake sale at the Talent Show - April 20th at 6:30 pm. If you are interested in coordinating this event or can volunteer the night of the talent show, please contact Joyce Gendell at joyce@gendell.com. Donated baked goods are also needed for this event. Please help out by donating some baked goods for the sale. Volunteers will also be needed to help with the Spring Fling on June 11th.

Committee Reports:

MARCH MADNESS – a BIG thank you went out to everyone who helped with the many events that took place in March.

Everything was very successful and could not have been done without the help of everyone who volunteered!

Renovation Update!!!

Tom Ours of the Office of Design & Constructions provided an update on the upcoming renovations at Beech Tree. The renovation has been broken down into three phases. The phases will occur as follows:

Phase 1 – April 9th 2010 through February 2011

Phase 2 – March 2011 through November 2011

Phase 3 – December 2011 through Summer of 2012.

Any questions regarding the renovations should go through Ms. Phillips at Terry.Phillips@fcps.edu



Special Education News

13 April- Eddie's Club Teen and Young Adult Social on Tuesday, April 13th from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at the MaGill's Famous Pizza Restaurant, 7201 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA. A special evening of fun, food, and camaraderie for our 13 and older Eddie's Club members. All Eddie's Club teens and young adults welcome. No need to call ahead, just

come out and enjoy the fun. More info is at <http://www.eddiesclub.org>.

14 April- The FCPS Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (ACSD) will hold its monthly meeting at the Gatehouse Administrative Center (Rooms 4050/4051), 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA. A map and directions are at http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map_base.cfm?locid=5031. The meeting begins promptly at 7:30 pm on that

Wednesday. Guests are welcome to observe and/or provide public comment at any meeting. For more information about the Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities, visit <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/ACSD>.

14 April- NEW FAMILY OPEN HOUSE event for all folks with new diagnosis or moving into the Northern Virginia area. It is on Wednesday, April 14th from 7:30pm at the Hospitality Center of The Arc of Northern Virginia, 98 N.

Washington St, Falls Church, VA 22046. It can be overwhelming when your child is diagnosed with a disability. It might feel like you are in a whole new world and you weren't given an instruction manual. In collaboration with organizations from the Virginia Ability Alliance, we are hosting an open house at The Arc of Northern Virginia's Hospitality Center. Introductory resource information on the different disabilities along with some important information on schools and county services will be provided with numbers to call and a path to take to start you on your way to providing your child and family all the services they might need. This presentation is for families affected by any special need and is intended for adults only as our space is limited and our numbers are growing. Feel free to spread the word. Please RSVP to The Arc Office at 703-532-3214 ext 101 or info@thearcfnova.org. The Virginia Ability Alliance is a Northern Virginia based coalition of fourteen non-profit organizations that support and advocate for individuals with disabilities.

15 April- FCPS ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) Enhanced Autism Services Parent Monthly Workshop on April 15, 2010 titled, Developing Social Skills for Students with Autism. This workshop is for parents whose children are receiving special education services using applied behavior analysis (ABA) at the preschool, elementary or secondary levels. Two sessions will be offered: 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., both at the Dunn Loring Administration Center (Entrance 2, Room 1), 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, VA 22027. A map and directions are at http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map_base.cfm?locid=5008. To download flier and registration form go to <http://www.fcps.edu/ss/ABA> and fax it to 571 423-4287, their new fax number.

15 April- FCPS Showing of Autism the Musical on Thursday, April 15th from 10 to noon at the FCPS Parent Resource Center (Entrance 2, Room 1), 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, VA 22027. A map and directions are at http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map_base.cfm?locid=5008. Join us for a

special screening of this uplifting documentary and discuss the effective strategies used to support social skills development in children with autism. Download the flier <http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/documents/AutismTheMusical.pdf>. Please register by calling the Parent Resource Center at 703-204-3941 or register on line at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XMHQKBP>.

16 April- Family Fun Night is a drop-in program for individuals ages 3-21 who are on the Autism Spectrum and their families. Through activities such as games and arts and crafts, staff and volunteers encourage the families to play together. Volunteers will assist with implementing activity stations and engaging participants in the activities. The program is held on the 3rd Friday of the month from October through May at the Langston-Brown Community Center, (upstairs gym), 2121 N. Culpeper Street, Arlington, VA 22207 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Contact Shaeron King at sking@arlingtonva.us or 703 228-4731 for more information.

17 April- POAC-NoVA Information and Support Group Meeting. The tentative topic is "Adults with Autism / Autism Awareness". It is on Saturday, April 17th from 1 to 4:30pm in the library of the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA (From the Capital Beltway (495), take exit 52A, (Little River Turnpike West; also called Route 236 West). The JCCNV is located on the right-hand side, 1.5 miles west on Little River Turnpike, at the intersection of Guinea Road). IMPORTANT: Free Childcare Now Available at POAC-NoVA's Monthly Support Meetings! POAC-NoVA is offering free childcare at all meetings held at the JCCNV. Reservations are a MUST. Please contact Dana Chilbert at (703) 537-3031 or by e-mail at DanaC@JCCNV.org at the JCCNV to reserve your spot ahead of time. This MUST be done for EVERY single child whether disabled or not! In order to have sufficient staff on hand, you must make a reservation. We cannot accept children without contacting the JCCNV at least forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting. You will also need to agree

to the JCCNV Special Needs Department Termination of Service Statement available at <http://www.poac-nova.org/pdfs/JCCNV%20Special%20Needs%20Department%20Termination%20of%20Service%20Statement.pdf>.

18 April- Autism Awareness Day at Nationals Park on Sunday, 18 April. Please join The Washington Nationals, DC Autism Parents (DCAP) & other DC Metropolitan Area Autism Organizations for Autism Awareness Day at Nationals Park. It is on Sunday, April 18th at 1:35pm (Nationals versus the Brewers). A portion of ticket sales benefit DC Autism Parents (DCAP). tickets Options: Outfield Reserved (Sections 101-107) \$24, Scoreboard Pavilion (Sections 237-243) \$22, Upper Infield Gallery (Sections 406-409; 416-420) \$18, AND Upper RF Terrace (Sections 322-336) \$10. For seating chart, visit http://washington.nationals.mlb.com/wa/s/ticketing/seating_pricing.jsp. Please contact info@dcautismparents.org if you would like to purchase tickets.

18 April- Northern Virginia Families Treating Autism Presents a Beginner's Workshop: Introduction to Biomedical Intervention for Autism on Sunday, April 18, 2010 from 2pm to 5pm at 3900 Jermantown Road (#150), Fairfax, VA 22030 (703) 910-5006). Location courtesy of Creative Health Solutions (www.creativehealthllc.com). Meet with parents of recovered children. Learn how you can educate yourself in order to be successful in treating your children's autism. Find day to day support from others. Topics include: Introduction to Biomedical Intervention for Autism, Introduction to the GFCFSF Diet, and Getting Started Tips. This event is FREE! Space is limited! Please RSVP via email to c_rescueangel@yahoo.com. Northern Virginia Families Treating Autism is a group of parents supporting each other in treating our children with autism. Our mission is to empower families, encourage parents and caregivers to educate themselves and be proactive in every aspect of our children's autism. For more info, visit http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/NOVa_FamiliesTreatingAutism.

20 April- FCPS Workshop on What Am I Going to Do After High School?-

Exploring Postsecondary Options: A seminar for students with IEPs and parents. This seminar is for students with IEPs and parents. Given the scope of individual student needs and plans for the future this seminar has been expanded to offer 3 different options depending upon individual plans. To begin, there will be a short introductory session that will look at general information pertinent to all students as they prepare for life after high school. The three breakout sessions will follow, which are: * Supported Employment Options (for students who will need ongoing support and follow-up after graduating from FCPS) * Competitive Employment Options (for students who are leaning toward going right to work following graduation and may or may not need continual support) * Post-Secondary Education Options (for students who plan to apply to and attend a post-secondary education college, university or training program) It is on Wednesday, April 20, 2010 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax, VA 22030. A map and directions are at http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map_base.cfm?locid=2005. For questions or to register please contact Natashi Anthony at 571-423-4150 or NMAthony@fcps.edu. For update information please check our website:www.fcps.edu/ss/career_transition.htm.

22 April- Autism class slated. The Fort Belvoir and Fort Myer Military Community Exceptional Family Member Programs are sponsoring a **"Tricare / Other Benefits and Safety Issues for Military Parents with Children with Autism and Other Cognitive Disabilities"** class and support group on Thursday, April 22nd from 6:30pm to 9:00 pm at Army Community Service, 9800 Belvoir Road (Building 200), Fort Belvoir, formerly known as the SOSA Recreation Center. Guest speaker will be LTC Scott Campbell, parent of a child with autism and a board member for the Autism Society of America- Northern Virginia Chapter and for Parents Of Autistic Children of Northern Virginia.

Join us for a wonderful opportunity for families to not only learn about medical benefits and safety issues for their Autistic children, but to also network with other Families. Reservations are required for class slots, on-site child care, and free foods/beverages. If a child care reservation is not cancelled by 10 am on March 25th, the parent may be responsible for childcare payment. For reservations, general or disabled access information, contact Marcia O'Connor, EFMP manager at (703) 696-8467 or TTY at (703) 696-4675. Due to unreliability of answering machines, telephonic reservations must be made directly to Mrs. O'Connor.

23 April- The next meeting of the Fairfax Autism Network (FAN) is Friday, April 23, 2010 from 10:00 am until noon in the Library of St. Raymond's Catholic church, 8750 Pohick Rd, Springfield, VA 22153-2107. (Just off the Fairfax County Pkwy) This is the small, casual autism support group that meets monthly to share and talk about any questions or problems you may be having. IEP Season is upon us! Do you have your IEP scheduled? Are you requesting ESY? Reports from recent conferences people have attended. Very casual, come meet and share. Questions? Call Teresa 703.440.8843, Jen 703.909.2053 or June 703.690.2815.

23-24 April- Accessibility Summit 2010 at McLean Bible Church in Tyson's Corner, VA. Keynote speaker is Dr. Benjamin Carson of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He is well-known and highly regarded worldwide for his innovative work with children with disabilities and special needs. In 2009, his exceptional life, based on his first book, *Gifted Hands*, premiered as a television movie. Also on hand will be Ms. Renee' Bondi, who will inspire and entertain conference attendees with her powerful message and beautiful singing, as she relates the details of the accident that changed her life forever in "Back on My Feet Again". There will also be 36 dynamic workshops presented by experts covering a broad range of disability-relevant subjects of interest to families and caregivers, churches, educators, advocates, service providers,

and professionals. Campbell's autism safety presentation is on Friday, April 23rd from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. In addition, there will be over 65 exhibitors offering products and of interest to the disability community. Our 16-page Summit marketing brochure will be mailed out the week of January 18th, so please be on the lookout. In the meantime, you can find more information about the 2010 conference, including online registration, schedule of events, more about our featured guest speakers, a full list of workshops and speakers, details about 2 special add-on panel discussions, hotel information, and exhibitor, sponsor, and advertising opportunities at www.accessibilitysummit.org. If you have questions, please contact Rosie Oakley, Director of Accessibility Summit 2010 at 703-770-2980 or accesssummit@mcleanbible.org.

23-24 April- 2010 Northern Neck Disabilities Awareness Fair (NNKDAF) will take place April 23-24, 2010 at King George Elementary School, 10381 Ridge Road (Routes 3 & 205), King George, VA 22485. On April 23rd from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. your family will enjoy a night filled with carnival games and you will be given the opportunity to meet the experts and visit the many special needs exhibitors that will be bringing the latest information and products they have available in the field of special needs and special education. On April 24th registration will begin at 7 a.m. From there, you will meet our keynote speakers and be able to participate in special education classes, meet one on one with experts, join in on panel discussions, and visit with our special needs exhibitors. Campbell's autism safety presentation will be done sometime on Saturday, 24 April. For more information, please visit <http://www.nswcfcu.org/home/news/dad>.

24 April- Parent Navigator Training. The VA Family to Family Health Information Center invites you to a Parent Navigators training on Saturday, April 24, 2010 at the Inova Fairfax Hospital Physician Conference Center from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The VA Family to Family Health Information (VA F2F) Center is a collaborative effort between the Partnership for People with

Disabilities, Parent to Parent of Virginia, and Medical Home Plus, Inc. The VA F2F Center provides emotional, informational and advocacy support to families statewide who have children with special health care needs and disabilities. The VA F2F Center is offering a one day intensive training for parents of children with special health care needs on April 24th that will be held at the Inova Fairfax Hospital's Physician Conference Center, lower level. Parents or family members attending the training will receive training materials; a \$50 stipend via check mailed after the training; help with child care costs; and lunch. In return, parents/family members will be required to provide information to 3 to 5 families over the course of 12 months through 1:1 support or by hosting a small group training. To register for the Northern VA F2F Parents Navigator training, please contact 703-531-3131 or Paula.Almendarez@inova.org.

24 April- Premies Today and Developmental Delay Resources (DDR)

workshop on CranioSacral and Zero Balancing Delays on Saturday, 24 April 2010 from 2 to 4:30 pm at the Inova Fairfax Physician's Conference Center. It is by Judith Sullivan. CranioSacral therapy is a gentle, hands-on method to improve the body's physiological system and cerebral spinal fluid. Zero Balancing is another hands-on method which helps people experience wholeness by combining Eastern views of energy and Western views of Science. How can it help babies, children, or parents? This lecture is free but a suggested donation of \$10 per family is appreciated to assist with costs. Please RSVP with your name and your child's age to info@premiestoday.org.

26 April- FCPS Sibshops are back! An exciting program for siblings of children with special needs! Sibshops are a lively

mixture of new games, discussions, and guest speakers. They are from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Mondays at the Kilmer Center, 8102 Wolftrap Road, Vienna, VA 22182. The registration are due by April 16, 2010 for the one on Monday, April 26, 2010. At a Sibshop, brothers and sisters will: Meet other brothers and sisters of children with special needs, Have fun, Talk about their brothers and sisters with others who really know what it's like to have a sibling with a disability, Make new friends, Learn more about disabilities and the services that people with disabilities receive, and Have some more fun! There is a \$5 fee for food and materials. For more details, call Kilmer Center and ask for Wanda Vander Nat at 571-226-8474.

27 April- FCPS Workshop on Better Behavior Begins Now!

Don't miss this free workshop for parents of elementary age students! Learn to promote positive behavior by creating a climate of positive language using strategies and techniques from Behavior Intervention Specialists. It is on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 from 7pm to 9pm at the Woodson High School (Cafeteria A), 9525 Main St, Fairfax, VA 22031. A map and directions are at http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map_base.cfm?locid=2021. Please register by calling the Parent Resource Center at 703-204-3941 or registering online <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/89X655G>. Accommodations and interpreters are available for workshops. Please let us know two weeks in advance if you need any of these services. Download the flier <http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/documents/BetterBehavior42710.pdf>.

28-29 April- Functional Analysis & Treatment of Severe Behavior Disorders Methods for Clinicians and Educators workshop on APRIL 28- 29, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal

City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202 by Dr. Brian Iwata. He is the field's foremost researcher on functional analysis methodology. In this workshop, he will provide a comprehensive review of all the currently used techniques and will illustrate the assessment-treatment continuum with extensive use of handouts and case examples. Early registration: \$305 per person; three, \$280 each, if postmarked no later than April 1 with check or purchase order enclosed. Late registration: \$335 per person; three, \$300 each. Please call ahead to confirm that workshop space is available and that the schedule has not changed. The emphasis will be on translating research findings into practical application. More info is at http://www.bisoxford.com/brian_res6.html.

30 April- FCPS Workshop on Building Bridges Between Middle School and High School

on Friday, April 30th from 10 to noon at the Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke, VA 22015. Learn what to expect for your teen transitioning from elementary school to middle school and/or middle school to high school. Workshop topics include schedules, electives, grades, work load, lockers and more! A map and directions are at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/direct.htm>. Please register by calling the Parent Resource Center at 703-204-3941 or registering online <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KFWFKN3>. Accommodations and interpreters are available for workshops. Please let us know two weeks in advance if you need any of these services. Download the flier <http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/documents/BuildingBridgesflyer.pdf>.