



BEECH TREE PTA NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2010

Message from the President...

Well, as I sit here, I take another dose of Advil, and wonder if my back and heating pad can take another prediction of snow mid week! Ugh, why didn't someone tell me, that Virginia has moved into the snowbelt! I am ready for Spring!

Unfortunately we had to postpone the much anticipated **PAJAMA BINGO Night**. But have no fear -- we will try again on **March 5th** at 6:00 pm. So please mark your calendars and please let Amadie Hart (amadie.hart@gmail.com) know if you are able to help make this one of the school favorite events!

Unfortunately, I am sorry to report that the snow has also caused us to have to cancel the **Family Math Night**, that we had scheduled for February 10th. We will try to reschedule, but do not have a date yet.

I hope Pre-K – 2nd graders and their families are able to make it to the **Partners in Print** night on February 18th. It is with your PTA contributions, both through your membership and participation in fundraising activities and events, that the PTA is able to support this program by purchasing the books provided to all participating students for this evening program.

March will be a busy month, starting of course with Bingo Night on the 5th. We will also have a new event this year -- **March Madness**. We are sponsoring a Beech Tree vs. Sleepy Hollow basketball game at Glasgow Middle School on March 12 at 6:30 pm. So bring your Beech Tree pride and cheer on Beech Tree teachers as they take on the Sleepy Hollow Elementary teachers. We will share proceeds of the evening between the two schools. Please contact Dedra Kassy (dlskassy@cox.net) if you are interested in helping out that evening.

And of course March's biggest event is our annual **Fun Fair on March 20th**. Preparations are under way now! We will need lots of volunteers to make this event be the great event it always is. So mark your calendars and watch for information as it comes out in your child's back packs! During the Fun Fair we have a GREAT raffle, but we need lots of items to raffle. We've already received these donations:

ski packages from Ski Liberty and Massanutten; an overnight and breakfast package from the Fairview Park Marriott; gift certificates to Sport Rock, Shadowland, and Silveradoo restaurants, and so much more. But we need more, more, more! Do you eat at a local restaurant? How about asking them to donate a gift certificate. You get us the name and contact and we'll

February

- 18 Spelling Bee in cafeteria, 2 pm
- 18 Partners in Print (check school schedule on that day)
- 26 Third Grade China
- 24 Restaurant Night at Fuddrucker's, 5:30-7:30 pm; Bring flier.

March

- 1-5 Fifth grade writing SOL – Don't be absent!
- 2 Special Election Day
- 2 Pyramid Concert at Stuart High School
- 3 PTA Meeting in library, 7 pm. Program: The Eco-Friendly Family
- 5 PTA Pajama Bingo in cafeteria, 6 pm
- 12 Beech Tree v. Sleepy Hollow basketball game, Glasgow Middle School, 6:30 pm
- 14 Daylight Savings begins
- 17 Fifth Grade trip to Kennedy Center
- 17 Principal's Coffee in library, 6:30 pm

follow up. Do you work for a company that might consider offering its services for raffle? Be imaginative. Ask businesses where you shop – we want to support our local businesses and most are more than willing to give – if we just ask. Contact Maureen Kiser (Maureen_Kiser@hotmail.com) with ideas!

Please remember to send your **“Box Tops for Education”** into school by **February 20th**. If we get the labels in by February 28th we will get a check by May. And as you all know, our PTA could sure use the money!! Please clip the Box Tops, and ask you child to drop them in the large receptacle outside the school office. It’s that simple! We will continue to collect Box Tops for Education throughout the year, so we would appreciate your continued support!

Please join us on March 3rd at 7:00pm in the school library for our next PTA meeting, when the “hot topic” will be “Eco-friendly families”

And, as always thank you all for your support and involvement with our school. That’s why the PTA makes a difference.

Karen Wirth, PTA President



Beech Tree Lane, February 7 (after the first storm) – no school buses in sight

Restaurant Night



We are holding our next **Restaurant Night at Fuddrucker's on Wednesday, February 24 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm**. Come enjoy good food and support the Beech Tree PTA at the same time! You will need to present a flier in order for a percentage of your purchase to be donated to the PTA. Look in upcoming Wednesday folders for the flier. Contact Diane Meiser (DMMeiser@cox.net) with any questions.

Special Education News

The FCPS Parent Resource Center has posted the January Newsletter at <http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/PRCJanuaryNewsletter2010.pdf.pdf>. For a complete list of all upcoming workshops and activities go to the PRC web site <http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/workshops.htm>, contact us by email prc@fcps.edu or phone 703-204-3941 or 703-204-3955 (Español). Please subscribe or update your subscription to Keep In Touch Plus. Check Special Education to receive email and information from the Parent Resource Center and Special Services <http://www.fcps.edu/kit>.

17 February- Specialneedskidsinfo.com presents a Parent Information Fair on Executive Function presented by Elizabeth Vosseller, MA, CCC-SLP of the Growing Kids Therapy Center. From 6 to 9 pm at The Washington Golf and Country Club, 3017 North Glebe Road, Arlington, VA. Cost is \$10 (cash and checks accepted), Reservations required to kate@specialneedskidsinfo.com or 703-524-8441.

19 February- 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.

23 February- FCPS ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) Enhanced Autism Services Parent Monthly Workshop on Tuesday, February 23rd from 9 to 10:30am and from 7 to 8:30pm the Gatehouse Admin Center (Room 3050), 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA 22042 in Room 4050/4051. A map and directions are at http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map_base.cfm?locid=5031. The topic is "Facilitating Language in the Home" by Todd Streff, M.S., BCBA. This workshop is intended for families of students receiving ABA autism services in preschool, elementary, and secondary schools. 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.

23 February- 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 3 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, February 23, 2010 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at South Lakes High School, 11400

South Lakes Drive, Reston, VA 20191. A map and directions are at http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map_base.cfm?locid=2015. Register online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/B3Y2HNN>. For questions or to register please contact Natashi Anthony at 571-423-4150 or NMAntony@fcps.edu. For update information, please check our website at www.fcps.edu/ss/career_transition.htm.

23 February- The Down Syndrome Association of Northern Virginia (DSANV) is proud to host a presentation by Mike Thompson, a board member and past president of Good Neighbor Village (GNV.) Good Neighbor Village is a residential community for adults with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities. It is located in eastern Henrico County, a suburb of Richmond, Virginia. It is on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 from 7 to 9 PM at the Dranesville District Office, McLean Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA 22101. . For more initial information about the GNV, please go to <http://www.goodneighborvillage.org>. We anticipate a large turnout for this presentation, so please register early. The seminar is open to everyone, not just members of the DSANV. To register please contact Noelle at the DSANV at 703-851-4611 or email NoelleH@dsanv.org.

23-24 February- Person Centered Thinking Training 2010. PCT training serves as a foundation for all who are involved in supporting people with disabilities in Virginia. The training content and format were developed by The Learning Community for Person Centered Practices. All trainers who deliver PCT, have been credentialed by The Learning Community. At the training, participants acquire core skills to assure that people receive person

centered supports and get better lives as a result. Participants commit to attend 2 full days of this skill-based, interactive training. The \$50 registration fee will be used to offset the costs of trainers and materials. The Northern Virginia training is on February 23th and 24th from 9am to 4pm at the First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King Street. Alexandria, VA 22302. Info on Registration and payment online is at <http://www.pubinfo.vcu.edu/partnership2/pctreg/pct2010.asp>. Info on Registration and payment by mail is at <http://www.vcu.edu/partnership/PCT/downloads/WEB%20mail%20regis2.pdf>.

24-25 February- Autism Society Registration Open for Day on the Hill 2010- Come to Washington to advocate for the autism community! The political spectrum in the United States today directly impacts the autism spectrum, from educational policies to federal funding for key disability programs to Medicaid reform, meaningful insurance reform and other policy initiatives. To ensure that families affected by autism are heard in Washington and beyond, the Autism Society invites autism advocates to attend its "Day on the Hill 2010," February 24-25 at the Marriott Key Bridge Hotel, 1401 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22209. As part of the "Day on the Hill," the Autism Society will provide training on being an effective advocate and information on pending legislation that would impact the autism community. The second day is dedicated to meetings between advocates and their elected officials or appropriate Congressional staffers. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of having constituents articulate their support for autism issues in person, so please register to join us in advocating for people with autism. More info is at [\[society.org/site/Calendar/1515292342?view=Detail&id=8421\]\(http://society.org/site/Calendar/1515292342?view=Detail&id=8421\).](http://www.autism-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

24 February- FCPS FCCPTA Special Education Meeting on Wednesday, February 24th from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm at the Dunn Loring Center, Room 11, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, VA 22027. A map and directions are at http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map_base.cfm?locid=5008. This meeting will be an annual reception with staff of the FCPS Dept. of Special Services. Come meet and greet central office staff and specialists.

25 February- The Fort Belvoir and the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Exceptional Family Member Programs are sponsoring "TRICARE/ Other Benefits and Safety Issues for Military Parents with Children with Autism and Other Cognitive Disabilities" class and support group on Thursday, February 25 from 6:30pm to 9:00 pm at Army Community Service, 9800 Belvoir Road (Bldg 200), Fort Belvoir, VA. Guest speaker will be LTC Scott Campbell, parent of a child with autism and board member of the Autism Society of Northern Virginia Chapter. 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 February 24th, the parent may be responsible for provider 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.

27 February- POAC-NoVA Information and Support Group Meeting. Topic is

"Setting Up a Home ABA Program" by Dr. Jane Barbin and Gretchen Ortega. This presentation will cover setting up a ABA/YB home program. Some of the Topics are Getting Ready, What a Program Looks Like, Who is your Team?, Parent Contributions, Benefits, General Procedures, Goal Selections, Assessment Tools, Teaching Materials, Data Sheets and more. This workshop is geared for parents. However, therapists will also benefit from knowing what to expect from parents! It is on Saturday, February 27th 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).

28 February- The Vienna Whole Foods store at 143 Maple Avenue East, Vienna, VA 22180 will be having a **gluten free cooking class**. The chef, Jules Shepard is the author of a few cookbooks and makes her own brand of gluten free flour. The class will be at the Vienna store from 3pm to 5:30PM on Sunday the 28th of February. It is free, but we would like people to sign up by emailing Katie.wolffe@wholefoods.com call customer service at 703 319-2000. This is simply to guarantee that there are enough samples for everyone. More info is at <http://www.JulesGlutenFree.com> and <http://www.NearlyNormalCooking.com>.

