



BEECH TREE PTA NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2010

Message from the President...

Well, my first term as PTA president ends but I have signed on for another year as President. While my name appears on the “top” of the list, this isn’t a job that is done alone. My most heartfelt thanks to Joyce Gendell who served as Vice President for four years (!) who took so much off my plate, offering a good (often better) second opinion, and has become a very good friend. Also on a “four year tour, David Chesnick kept us financially honest as Treasurer and managed to provide some “strong male input” even when surrounded by a sea of women! I want to thanks Jane Lesko for her 2 years of keep it all together when managing to document all our meeting notes and a bigger thank you to her for agreeing to remain on the PTA board as our secretary for another term. Elections for next year’s PTA Board were held June 3rd before the Spring Concert. In addition to Jane and myself, I am thrilled to welcome Suzanne Palmer (as VP) and Rachel Burgess (as Treasure) to the Beech Tree PTA Board. It will be a great year!

We are not done yet! Our **Spring Fling will be Friday June 11th at 6:30** and we hope you’ll all bring your dancing shoes and tap your toes while we dance the night away. There will be pizza, drinks and baked goods all for sale. Please consider donating your time to help with this event or bake up a batch of cookies to sell at the bake sale. Please contact Mikela Burris (mikela@underwaterproductions.com) if you can help.

To all of you who volunteered your time this year, joined the PTA, lent a helping hand, baked a million cupcakes, clipped a thousand Boxtop labels, sponsored a child in Laps for Learning, popped popcorn, sold spirit wear, chaired events, wrote newsletters went to a meeting or offered an idea and so much more...thank you. Please keep it up! As a member of this new PTA Board I think speak for all of us and assure you we will do the best we can to represent the entire Beech Tree Community. Please remember we need your support, in big and small ways, to make a difference.

Have a great summer!!!

Karen Wirth, PTA President



June

- 11 Bring your Parent to School Day, 1pm-5pm (check folder or website for details)
- 11 Spring Fling, 6:30 pm in the gym
- 16 Spring Band/Strings Concert, 6:30 pm in the gym
- 18 Kindergarten “Moving On” Celebration, 9:30 am in cafeteria
- 18 All Class Parties in the afternoon, including Fifth Grade party in gym
- 24 **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**, dismissal is approximately 11:35 am

Special Education News

9 June- 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>.

10 June- PYBIA Workshop on "Teaching Academics - Reading"

on Thursday, June 10th from 7 to 9pm. Topics will include: beginning letter sounds; phonics; blended sounds; how to sound-out words; sentence formation; story time and attending to stories; answering intraverbal questions about a story while in a group or individually; answering questions about a story in multiple choice format. This series of classes are geared towards parents and teachers of kids who are high intermediates, advanced learners or HFA/Aspergers Syndrome and best suited to those ages 4-7 years. The workshop will cost \$25. Please remember we offer scholarships for your teachers, and this class is one many of them could use. To register, please email Shannon McGrail at smcgrail@poac-nova.org with your name and parent or teacher. You must be a POAC-NoVA member to take our classes. To join, please go to http://www.poac-nova.org/base.cgim?template=join_POAC-NoVA.

12 June- Clemyjontri Family Fun Day with Parents of Exceptional Children (POEC)

on Saturday, 12 June 2010 from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm. We'll be celebrating the end of the school year at one of the best parks in the nation! Bring your kids to enjoy each other, the great equipment and especially the beautiful carousel. We'll also be signing a GIANT thank you card to Mrs. Adele Lebowitz, the primary

benefactor of the park. Please come for the fun and bring some friends! Become a member of POEC on the 12th of June and your one-time member fee will be donated towards the new Liberty Swing at Clemyjontri (<http://www.fxparcs.org/Liberty-Swing.html>). From the beltway (I-495), take the VA-193/Georgetown Pike exit 44 and go east approximately 2 miles; park entrance will be on your right at 6317 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101. For more information, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/clemyjontri>.

12 June- POAC-NoVA Information and Support Group Meeting.

Our June meeting will be a discussion on the "Basics of Biomedical Interventions" presented by Dr. Janelle Love, a family practice MD from Pasadena, MD, with an introduction by our President, Kevin A. McGrail, on "Biomedical Interventions, Autism Landmines & Primum Nil Nocere". It is on Saturday, June 12th from only 1 to 3pm 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).

17 June- Annual ASNV Meeting

at the Arc/ ASNV office on 98 N. Washington St, Falls Church, VA at 7pm on Thursday, June 17th. Our annual meeting will be open to the public with a special feature presentation on Safety and Law Enforcement Concerns for individuals on the autism spectrum. Project Lifesaver will also be present for you to gather more information and protect your child or young adult. FEATURE PRESENTATION is Safety Considerations for Parents of Individuals with Autism and Other Cognitive Disabilities. Individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder or other cognitive disabilities are at far greater risk throughout their lives than the general population. Tragically, that is clear in an increasing amount of news stories every day. Learn the typical extraordinary

dangers for these individuals and what proactive steps you can do today to reduce the criminal and safety issues for both your loved one and you. Our very own Vice President, Scott Campbell is a nationally known speaker on this topic and has done this presentation over 120 times in the past five years for a variety of audiences. He speaks regularly to parents, EMT's, Firefighters, for the Justice Department and other professionals so he is uniquely qualified to speak on the significant concerns about safety in the world of autism.

19 June- The Washington Group and Exceptional Parent Magazine 7th Annual Disability Awareness Night.

Please be our guest at the 7th Annual game with the Potomac Nationals verses the Lynchburg Hillcats on Saturday, June 19th, 2010 at PFITZNER STADIUM, 7 County Complex Ct, Woodbridge, VA. Pick up tickets at Washington Group tent beginning at 5:00pm. Disability Resource Fair from 5 to 6:30pm. Presentation of Maxwell J. Schleifer Distinguished Service Award to Michele Gates and Wildflour Catering at 6:15. Ceremonial First Pitch by Virginia Special Olympian of the Year, Brendan Hammeke at 6:20. National Anthem performed by American Idol Regional Finalist, Maddy Curtis at 6:30. Game Begins at 6:35. Other events and activities: All guests receive a free Washington Group/Potomac Nationals T-Shirt and Ice Cream Sandwich, and Door prize raffle for 2 round trip airline tickets on Jet Blue. Please RSVP if you are interested in receiving free tickets for yourself, your family, or a group to (703)279-6561 or calford@finsvcs.com. Please note that you must RSVP to receive a ticket.

