



# BEECH TREE PTA NEWSLETTER

**September 2009**

Wow! Where did the summer go? I know the kids won't admit it, but I know they are all ready to be back at school and ready for another year great year with even more opportunities! Our 09/10 school year is off and running and the Beech Tree PTA has some great plans for the year. We had **terrific attendance** at our first PTA meeting! A very special thanks to all of you who came and added your voices. Please let's keep it up! We meet the first Wednesday of every month at 7pm. Childcare, Spanish, Vietnamese and sign language translation services are always available at each meeting.

For those not able to attend the meeting, we still need and want your support in whatever capacity works best for you, your family and your schedule. Simply joining the PTA supports our local PTA, VA, State and National PTAs. Your \$10 membership fee **stays right here at our school** and is a critical part of our efforts to support school programs! Our goal this year is one membership per child in the school. That's 487 memberships we're aiming for! So, please stop by the PTA table on "Back to School" night, join our PTA and give your child a voice and an advocate!

At Beech Tree our PTA has always been a very active group of parents and teachers who are doing what they can to **support all of our Beech Tree community**. We again have some of our old favorites planned for this year such as: Pajama Bingo night, Spring Fling, teacher and support staff appreciation celebrations, the Book Fair, the Fun Fair and a host of other programs.

Our PTA provides almost ALL transportation costs for field trips (school budgets are not allowed to be used), cultural assemblies, after school programs and scholarships for students with financial needs, and technology purchases for school, teacher trainings, and much more. Along with dues from joining the PTA, fundraising is a critical part of our efforts to ensure these activities can continue.

We are excited about our new **Fall Fundraisers this year!!** On **Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup>** we will be hosting two activities. The first will be the first ever Beech Tree **Community Flea Market and Yard Sale** and the second is **Laps for Learning!** We are looking for shoppers, sellers, runners and walkers to participate in this day. Surely we all meet one of those categories! Please consider having members of your family participate in these fun events and supporting our school. Look inside this newsletter for all the details!

The executive board of the PTA developed a **proposed operating budget** for this year. We reviewed the budget briefly at our first PTA meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>, but we must officially vote and have the budget accepted by the general membership. A copy of the proposed budget is included in this newsletter. If you have any questions we would be glad to answer them BEFORE back-to-school night on the 16<sup>th</sup>. We will not be having a general assembly that evening, so we will be voting on the budget by ballot in the classrooms. Please take a look – if we do better with some fundraising, get a few more members, and receive a little more community support then we will be able to add programs and donate more money directly to the school for various intended projects.

I have to thank all of those folks who've already signed up to be PTA members. Please remember you need to **re-join every year!!** Many thanks go to all of you who have volunteered to head up a committee or work on an event. **We need all of you to make this work.**

*Karen Wirth, PTA President*

September	
15	5 <sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Wolf Trap
16	Back to School Night, , 6:30 pm
October	
3	Laps for Learning – 9 am to 12 pm
3	Community Yard Sale – 8 am to 12 pm
5	Vendor Fair for families who qualify for Supplemental Educational Services
5	Parents as Educational Partners
7	PTA meeting in Library at 7 pm
12	Columbus Day Holiday – school closed
14	Principal's Coffee in library at 6:30 pm on "The ABCs of IEPs" (Individualized Education Plans for special education)
15	Fifth grade field trip to Hemlock
26-29	PTA/Scholastic Book Fair
28	Ice Cream Social/Family Book Fair Night, 6:30 pm
30	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter
30	Fourth grade trip to Jamestown/Williamsburg



## PTA Spotlight!

The PTA wants to keep you informed! Each month, look for the PTA spotlight to help you stay up-to-date on PTA activities and help you get involved. Your involvement will not only help our students, but the entire Beech Tree Community. Look each month to the PTA spotlight! There are lots of new things on the horizon this school year.

October 3<sup>rd</sup> will be a new style of Fall Fundraiser; we will not be selling wrapping paper this year. Instead on Saturday morning, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will be sponsoring a Community Yard Sale and a fun run called "Laps for Learning". (More details are included below.) If you have any comments regarding this new event, please share them with the PTA. We would love your feedback.

We are trying a new Spirit Wear vendor this year and we are taking orders now through the end of September. The PTA (and I) would like to find a volunteer to become the Spirit Wear Coordinator. If you are interested, contact me at [joyce@gendell.com](mailto:joyce@gendell.com) or 703-532-8788. We also need volunteers for other positions and activities so consider helping out! If you have any questions, I would be happy to discuss the PTA with you. Contact me anytime.

See you soon,  
Joyce Gendell, PTA Vice President

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### Lace up those running shoes it's time for the Fall Fundraiser: Laps for Learning

Please join us for Beech Tree's first annual **Laps for Learning fall fundraiser**. It's a healthy and fun way to earn money for the school. Children, alumni, parents, teachers and staff are all welcome to participate. Participants will be asked to collect pledges for the laps that they run/walk on Beech Tree's upper field on **October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9-12am**. Prizes will be awarded to top pledge collectors and runners in many categories. We need LOTS of volunteers so if you'd rather support the school by helping to register participants, hand out water or lap counters please contact me at [grantlives@aol.com](mailto:grantlives@aol.com) or (703) 237-0638. Look for the volunteer and sign up information in this week's Wednesday folder.

### The Directory is Coming!

Looking to arrange carpools or playdates? Have no fear – the 2009-2010 Student Directory will soon be here! We are currently soliciting advertising for the directory. Ads cover the cost of printing, and allow us to provide a directory *free of charge* to every Beech Tree family and staff member. If you have a business and would like to advertise, or know of someone who does, please look for the advertising form in your child's Wednesday folder. If you have any questions, contact Ashley Martinage at 703-237-4925 or [aemartinage@gmail.com](mailto:aemartinage@gmail.com)

Make sure your family's information in the directory is correct. You can help us to ensure the accuracy of your information by visiting the school's WeCare website (accessed through the 24/7 Blackboard parent portal at:

<http://fcps.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>)

to verify that the contact information (address, phone number and e-mail address) the office has on file for you is correct. School staff will be available at Back to School night to help parents access the Blackboard system, or you can contact the FCPS 24-7 Help Desk at 1-866-434-8880.



## Do you shop at Giant, Safeway or Harris Teeter?

If so, on your next visit, please stop by the customer service desk (or go on-line) and ask them to link your savings card (VIC card, Bonus Card etc.) to Beech Tree Elementary. By doing so, they will contribute a certain percentage of your bill to our school. This is a great way to donate money to our PTA that doesn't cost you a dime! Please remember, that you must re-link your card EVERY Year!



Don't forget to clip those labels!!



**Box Tops and Campbell's Soup Labels** – Collecting the labels is not difficult and basically amounts to free money for Beech Tree (or in the case of Campbell's Soup labels, points are earned to purchase needed items for the school). Box Top labels are found on many different products packaging including: General Mills, Cottonelle, Kleenex, Ziploc, Huggies, Juicy Juice, and Campbell's labels are on Campbell's and Pepperidge Farm products. Keep your eye's out for them! Please clip them and send them into the school and have your children drop them in the marked boxes outside the office.



## Beech Tree Spirit Wear Sale Begins Today - September 16, 2009

Please take a look at the wonderful spirit wear clothing options included in today's Wednesday Folder. Consider purchasing a new item for everyone in the family - these items make great holiday gifts too! Help your child participate in the student council sponsored spirit days!

The PTA is taking orders for short sleeve t-shirts, long sleeve t-shirts, hooded sweatshirts (or Hoodies!), and sweat pants. The shirts and sweats will be a light grey with royal blue printing. A sample of the t-shirt is located in the lobby on Chips the Beaver for the duration of the sale. Orders and payments must be received by **September 30, 2009!** This will be our

only sale for 2009. Please select you sizes carefully as we cannot accept returned items. **All sales are Final.**

Please make checks payable to Beech Tree PTA. Cash is also accepted. If you have any questions, please contact Joyce Gendell at [joyce@gendell.com](mailto:joyce@gendell.com) or 703-532-8788. Orders should be fulfilled by the end of October.

## Beech Tree PTA Meeting Minutes September 9, 2009 By Jane Lesko

### Principal's Report:

[Calendar dates listed on front of newsletter were provided during the meeting and omitted here.]

Ms. Phillips noted that the James Lee Center will have a Family Night on September 17<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 9 pm.

### Back to School Night is set for Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

It will begin promptly at 6:30 pm. It is a great chance to meet your child's teacher and hear about what they have planned for the school year. The **Before School Program starts September 14<sup>th</sup>**. Drop off is at 8:00 am – no earlier - please. This program will take place on regular scheduled school days. The program will not occur on days with a two hour delay or when school is cancelled due to weather. It was noted that a situation occurred at Kiss & Ride earlier this week where a parent was late in picking up their child. The child got a ride home with a friend. Neither the school or the child's parent knew where the child was. The child was safe but it caused a scare. Please notify the school if there is a change in your plans when picking up your child. Ms. Phillips will work with the teachers on ways to prevent this type of incident from happening again. All the classroom teachers have been Responsive Classroom trained. This is an approach to classroom learning that makes each class a community. The Art, PE and Music teachers were recently trained on this approach.

### Teachers' Report:

The teachers thanked the PTA for the mats that were purchased for the front doors. The mats were a gift to the school from the PTA. The school librarian, Ms. Valentine, is looking for parent volunteers to help in the library. Please contact Ms. Valentine if you are able to help out.



## Counselor's Report:

Ms. Mayer gave a presentation on a Fresh Start to the New Year. It has been proven that our children's success is directly linked to parent's involvement in their education. Higher expectations translate to higher achievement. This philosophy starts in elementary school. There is also a correlation between higher teacher certifications and higher student achievement. Beech Tree has the following:

- ✓ **25 teachers with masters Degrees**
- ✓ **4 National Board Certified Teachers**
- ✓ **50 teachers with additional certifications**
- ✓ **38 teachers currently in school seeking additional Masters Degrees**
- ✓ **One (soon to be 2) PhD**

A Fresh Start to the 2009/2010 school year begins with US.



## Treasurer's Report:

*Explanation of how reimbursements work* – in the Treasurer's box in the office on Ms. Do's desk there is a folder that has disbursement and revenue forms. To receive a disbursement, fill out the form and provide a copy of the receipt. The disbursement will be provided to you as soon as possible. Your check will be left in the treasurer's box in an envelope with your name on it. When you receive the check, please make sure two signatures are on the check. If there is only one, it will not be cashed. When submitting money, please fill out the revenue form and place it in the treasurer's box. Budget was reviewed over the summer and will be approved by membership vote at Back to School Night. [See the back of this newsletter for a copy of the submitted budget.]

## Committee Reports:

*School Kits* – the school supply kits were delivered to the students classrooms. There is one remaining kit for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade if supplies still need to be purchased.

*Membership* – Families will be able to purchase PTA memberships at Back to School Night.

*Directory* – Ashley Martinage is currently soliciting advertisers that were in last year's directory. [See article on page 2 of this newsletter.]

*Fall Fundraiser -- Flea Market* - Saturday, Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8 am-12 pm. Families are asked to donate gently used items which will be sold with all the profits going to the school. Tables will be sold for \$25 for people to sell their own items for their own profit and the \$25 will go to the school. Food will also be sold – food

donations will be accepted. Volunteers will also be needed to run tables and help with set up and take down.

*Fall Fundraiser – Laps for Learning* – Saturday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>. [See article on page 2 of this newsletter.]

*Girls on the Run* – Girls in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> can participate in this exercise program to promote positive self image and body awareness. The girls are provided with training and run two 5K races during the school year.

*Box Tops/Campbells* – [See article on page 3.] The school received \$500 from sending in box top clippings. The next submission is October 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Grocery Registrations* – [See article on page 3.]

*SCRIP* – Giant Food sells gift cards for 5% off face value. The school sells them for full value and the PTA receives the 5%. Forms will be sent home in the Wednesday Folder. Contact Laura Coates with questions concerning Giant gift cards at [laura.coates@yahoo.com](mailto:laura.coates@yahoo.com).

## Testing Dates:

- ✓ Sept 22-25<sup>th</sup> = NNAT Testing for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and some 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>
  - ✓ Oct 19-30<sup>th</sup> = CogAT Testing for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- Please send children in well-rested and ready for testing. Please try not to be absent for these tests.

## New Business:

*The Holmes Run Valley Community Association* will be having a Community Meeting at Beech Tree on **October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**. The Montessori School and the Beech Tree Renovations will be discussed.

*Transportation* – several bus route issues were discussed. The transportation department is aware of some of the issue and is trying to work them out. Parents were told to contact specific transportation authorities and notify them of the issues.

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## Special Education News!

**19 and 26 September- Sensory Friendly Movie.** Please join AMC and the Autism Society for "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs". It is on Saturday, September 19 and 26, 2009 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the AMC Tyson's (McLean) - 703-734-6212, AMC Potomac Mills (Woodbridge) - 703-490-3801, and AMC Rio Cinemas (Gaithersburg) 301-948-6673. Cost is \$6 per person. AMC Entertainment (AMC) and the Autism Society have teamed up to bring families affected by autism and other disabilities a special opportunity to enjoy current movies in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis with the "Sensory Friendly Films" program. In order to provide a more accepting and comfortable setting for this unique audience, the movie

## Special Education News cont'd

auditoriums will have their lights brought up and the sound turned down, families will be able to bring in their gluten-free, casein-free snacks, and no previews or advertisements will be shown before the movie. Additionally, audience members are welcome to get up and dance, walk, shout or sing - in other words, AMC's "Silence is Golden" policy will not be enforced unless the safety of the audience is in question.

**22 September - DSANV Workshop on "Financial Strategies for the Special Needs Family** (all ages) on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 from 7 to 9pm at the Sully District Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. Chantilly, VA 20151. The Special Care Planning Team of The Washington Group consists of financial practitioners who are certified in helping families with a special needs situation plan for the future. They help their clients deal with financial and legal issues such as guardianship, the use of a special needs trust, trusteeship, government programs, and most importantly ensuring that the financial well being of the person with special needs is being met now and in the future when the caregivers may no longer be able to do so. This program is FREE and open to the public. To RSVP, please email Noelle Holloman at [NoelleH@dsanv.org](mailto:NoelleH@dsanv.org).

**23 September- Workshop for military parents on "How to get the most out of Tricare" and "Safety Considerations for Parents of Individuals with Autism and Other Cognitive Disabilities"** at Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA from 10 to 2 and from 5:30 to 9:30 at the Religious & Family Services Chapel Annex, 3019 Embry Loop, MCB Quantico, VA 22134. Presentations will be by Scott Campbell. This workshop will provide the latest details on increasing the monthly dollar limits for ABA therapy under the ECHO Program, extending that program to retirees, and the autism ABA Demo. RSVP to Pam Hauck at (703) 784-3272/ 2172 (DSN 278) or [pamela.hauck.ctr@usmc.mil](mailto:pamela.hauck.ctr@usmc.mil).

**25 September- Fairfax County's FANtastic Fridays Family Autism Night.** What is FANtastic Fridays? Free drop-in recreation program for individuals on the autism spectrum ages 2-22 and their entire family, One specialized recreation activity and several other available activities, Low key opportunity for the community to come together and have fun playing, socializing and interacting with other families; and Connect families to recreation opportunities available in their community. Cost: FREE! No registration required. It is on Friday, September 25, 2009 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Mott Community Center, 12111 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22030. Special Activity: Art Therapy with Rachel Schreiberman. Come participate in group art therapy. We will be using natural and recycled art materials to explore our strengths. Attendees are encouraged to bring materials such as plastic bottles, wrappers, receipts, and boxes to use to make media sculptures. For questions please contact Jennae Duarte at 703-324-5557 or [Jennae.Duarte@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Jennae.Duarte@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**26 September- POAC-NoVA Information and Support Group Meeting.** We will be sponsoring one of the Medicaid and SSI Workshops. The Arc of Northern Virginia and members of the Virginia Ability Alliance are holding a series of workshops for families who want to know more about VA Medicaid and Social Security Income. Learn about the VA Medicaid Waivers: what they are who is eligible, how they can help you or your loved one, and how to apply. Discover what Supplemental Security Income is and how to apply for it. The workshops are FREE and open to the public.

It is on Saturday, 26 September from 1 to 4:30 pm in the auditorium 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.

**29 September- FCPS Workshop on Getting Organized for School Success!** Join us for a FREE interactive workshop to learn the most effective organization strategies for your child! It is on Tuesday, September 29 from 7 to 9 pm at the Dunn Loring Center (Entrance 1 - Room 11), 2334 Gallows Rd, Dunn Loring, VA 22027. Please register for any of the following workshops, except where noted otherwise, by calling the Parent Resource Center at 703-204-3941 or registering online at [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=W8FUWSTkO829Kz3U0vRTsw\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=W8FUWSTkO829Kz3U0vRTsw_3d_3d).

Accommodations and interpreters are available for workshops. Please let us know two weeks in advance if you need any of these services.

**29 September- Down Syndrome Association of Northern Virginia workshop** on September 29, 2009 from 7pm to 9pm at the Dranesville District Government Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA 22101. Early, Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis, Treatment (EPSDT) is a healthcare option for children who receive Medicaid. EPSDT can cover services that are not routinely covered for adults. States are required to provide any healthcare services that are medically necessary to correct, improve, or maintain physical or mental conditions. These services can be provided even if they are not included in the state's Medicaid plan. What are Some of the Services Most Commonly Provided Under EPSDT?- Hearing Aids, Assistive Technology, Personal Care, Private Duty Nursing, Medical Formula and Medical Nutritional Supplements, and Therapies - such as Physical, Occupational, Behavioral, or Speech. What are Some of the Non-Traditional Services Provided Under EPSDT?- Adapted Exercise Equipment, Organ Transplants, Adapted Wheelchairs, One-to-One Aides, and ABA Therapy. To learn more about EPSDT and who is eligible, please join us for an informational presented by Brian Campbell, EPSDT Coordinator, at the Department of Medical Assistance Services. To RSVP for this program, please email Noelle Holloman at [NoelleH@dsanv.org](mailto:NoelleH@dsanv.org) or call 703-621-7129. This program is free and open to the public.

**30 September- Presentation on transition from the Virginia Autism Council** by Sally Chappel (VDOE TTAC) and Kim Letts (parent) called "It's All About What Your Child Wants to Do: Transition Planning for Life After High School". The workshop is a collaboration between The Virginia Autism Council, Fairfax County Public Schools' Parent Resource Center and the LTCCC Committee for Young Adults with Disabilities. It is on Wednesday, September 30, 2009 at the Woodson High School (Cafeteria A), 9525 Main Street, Fairfax, VA 22031. Exhibits are from 6:30 to 7:00 pm, and the presentations are from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. Register at <http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/PRCVACTransitionworkshop.htm> or [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=4YVr7TKrkYsVhm9JmKkCqw\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=4YVr7TKrkYsVhm9JmKkCqw_3d_3d). Accommodations and interpreters are available for workshops. Please let us know two weeks in advance if you need any of these services.

**Beech Tree PTA Budget 2009/10**  
**Sunday, September 13, 2009**

	Register	Beginning+Current	Difference
<b>Current Balance Cash</b>	<b>\$ 11,663.62</b>	<b>11,663.62</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>		<b><u>BUDGET</u></b>	<b><u>CURRENT</u></b>
Book Fairs		1,750.00	0.00
PTA Dues		1,200.00	0.00
Fundraisers			
<i>Bingo Night</i>		500.00	0.00
<i>Fall Fundraiser</i>		3,000.00	0.00
<i>Restaurant Nights</i>		300.00	0.00
Box Tops for Education/Campbell's		500.00	0.00
Grocery Cards/SCRIP		1,000.00	(288.55)
School Directory		500.00	0.00
Promotional Items		350.00	66.87
PTA Donations		350.00	8.00
Fun Fair		5,500.00	0.00
School Supply Kits		0.00	25.99
Miscellaneous Income		0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>14,950.00</b>	<b>(187.69)</b>
<b><u>PTA EXPENSES</u></b>			
Hospitality		550.00	0.00
Supplies		350.00	0.00
PTA Community Meetings Childcare		200.00	0.00
Insurance		306.00	306.00
<b>TOTAL PTA EXPENSES</b>		<b>1,406.00</b>	<b>306.00</b>
<b><u>SCHOOL SUPPORT</u></b>			
Building/Grounds		200.00	0.00
Outdoor Garden Classroom		250.00	0.00
Cultural Activities		3,250.00	0.00
Field Trips/Transportation		3,000.00	0.00
5TH Grade Party		650.00	0.00
Odyssey of the Mind		1,000.00	0.00
Student Council Assoc		250.00	0.00
Scholarship Fund		500.00	0.00
Teacher's Conferences		1,000.00	0.00
After School Program Support		1,000.00	0.00
Spring Fling		300.00	0.00
Un-Restricted Gifts to Beech Tree		1,000.00	3,574.80
Kid Care		0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Expenses		800.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL SCHOOL SUPPORT EXPENSES</b>		<b>13,200.00</b>	<b>3,574.80</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>14,606.00</b>	<b>3,880.80</b>
<b>TOTAL NET INCOME/(LOSS)</b>		<b>344.00</b>	<b>(4,068.49)</b>