



# BEECH TREE PTA NEWSLETTER

May 2010

## Message from the President...

Wow! Things are really winding down!

Our **fourth annual SCA talent show** was another huge success! Who knew we had that many talented students willing to get up on stage and share? Special thanks goes to, teachers Beth Colangelo, Sherrell Ly and Lori Simon, and parent coordinators David Lesko and Marcia Stewart and of course all the parents who baked and sold treats and most importantly raised such talented children! It is truly one of my favorite events at Beech Tree where the kids really get to shine! It was a great show and everyone seemed to have a **GREAT** time!

Thanks also to Melisa Banks who has been heading our Hospitality Group. Thanks to all the families that provided food and treats in recognition of **Teacher Appreciation week**. We saw a lot of happy and well fed teachers leaving the cafeteria last Monday and they had some nice after school snacks on Thursday as well. Thanks also to all the kids for the flowers and nice notes sent to their teachers! I know they love hearing from the kids!

Last up will be our **Spring Fling** on Friday June 11<sup>th</sup>. So dust off your dancing shoes. Last year we tried something new and brought in a local band made up of Jeb Stuart High School students. They were great, and the kids loved them. So they are set to play again for us this year. So please plan to come by. We will have pizza and drinks for sale. And, as always, we could please use some help that evening with set up, selling pizza and clean up. Let us know if you can help! ([kewirth@hotmail.com](mailto:kewirth@hotmail.com))

I will also put out a plea for some **help moving the PTA closet** contents. With the renovation at hand, we are being kicked out of our PTA closet currently located behind the school. We have ordered a shed set to arrive any day now. We will be seeking volunteers to assemble the shed on a weekend morning/afternoon, then more folks to help move the contents from the closet to the shed on a Monday afternoon. Please let me know if you are available for either or both and once the shed arrives we will devise a plan!

## May

- 10 Kindergarten Orientation, 2pm in cafeteria
- 12 Spring Instrumental Concert, 6:30 pm in gym
- 17-21 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

## June

- 3 Spring Choral concert, 6:30 pm in the gym
- 3 Last PTA meeting for year, just before Spring Choral concert in the gym
- 4 Field Day
- 11 Bring your Parent to School Day, grades 1-5
- 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

We're nearing the end of the PTA year. The slate of Board of Officers for next year has been announced. We will have our last "PTA meeting" for this school year on June 3<sup>rd</sup> just prior to the school's choral concert, where we will have a formal vote. But we still need your involvement!! We still have a list of committee chair positions that do not have names associated with them. If some of these positions are not filled, they will likely not be part of or planning or budgeting. That doesn't mean you have to take on a whole committee. You could share committee with someone – volunteer for a one-time event – encourage others to get involved. This whole thing doesn't work without your support and involvement so I encourage you to look at the committee's listing and see if you might be able to spare some (more) time to support our programs.

WOW!...we've done and are still doing a lot as a PTA and my thanks goes out to all of you who helped throughout the school

*Karen Wirth, PTA President*

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## PTA Open Board Positions

We still have a number of Board and committee positions open for next year. Each of these is important to the school and without volunteers, the PTA will not be able to organize many of the meaningful, educational and fun programs that it has done in the past. If you can volunteer, the time is now! Look at the list and then send me (Joyce Gendell) an email at [joyce@gendell.com](mailto:joyce@gendell.com) or give me a call at 703-532-8788 if you are interested.

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|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| ➤ <b>Sports Programs Coordinator</b> | ➤ <b>Fairfax County PTA Representative</b> | ➤ <b>School Supplies</b>                 |
| ➤ <b>Flex Coordinator</b>            | ➤ <b>Fun Fair Activities</b>               | ➤ <b>Parents vs Teachers Coordinator</b> |
| ➤ <b>Bingo Night</b>                 | ➤ <b>Grocery Registration</b>              | ➤ <b>Spring Fling</b>                    |
|                                      | ➤ <b>PTA Web Development</b>               | ➤ <b>Welcome Committee</b>               |

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## PTA Minutes

**May 5, 2010**  
**By Jane Lesko**

### President's Report

Karen Wirth, the PTA President noted the following.

- Karen noted that the renovations at Beech Tree have started. The PTA has been given two weeks to remove all of the articles from the PTA closet. A new shed has been ordered and will be placed next to the other PTA storage shed next to the modular. When the new shed arrives, the PTA will be looking for volunteers to help assemble the shed on a Saturday or Sunday. The following Monday, volunteers will also be needed to moved the contents of the PTA closet to the new shed. A notice will be sent out when volunteers will be needed.
- The following Committee Chair Positions are currently open for the 2010-2011 school year:

Sports Programs  
Flex Coordinator  
Bingo Night  
Fairfax County PTA  
Fun Fair Activities  
Grocery Registration  
PTA Web Development  
School Supplies  
Parents vs Teachers Coordinator  
Spring Fling  
Welcome Committee

### Principal's Report:

[Calendar dates provided are on the front of the newsletter.]

- Due to drainage issues, the playground needed to be dismantled sooner rather than later. The PE teachers and Ms. Mayer have worked very hard to come up with games to be played on the upper field.

- The school will no longer be able to accommodate after school meetings space for non-school-related clubs until after the renovations have been completed.

### Teacher's Report:

Ms. Abu-Rish noted that the teachers wanted to thank the PTA for their support of Girls on the Run.

- The teachers were very grateful for the lunch that was provided by the Beech Tree Families for Teacher Appreciation Week.
- Since Beech Tree will not be hosting summer school this year some teachers are considering being full time nannies for the summer. If you are looking for a full time nanny for the summer, please e-mail Ms. Phillips.

### Counselor's Report:

- Nothing to report.

### Treasurer's Report:

David Chesnick is closing out the books. David Lesko will head a committee to audit the books.

- The incoming Board will agree to a gift for the school.

### Committee Reports:

- Spring Fling – The Beech Tree Spring Fling will be held June 11<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm in the gym. Please contact Mikela Burris if you can volunteer to help or provide anything for the bake sale – [mikela@underwaterproductions.com](mailto:mikela@underwaterproductions.com). Help will be needed in setting up for the event, selling pizza and clean up. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

## Special Education News

### 11 May- FCPS PRC Workshop on

#### What are Related Services?

on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 from 7 to 9pm at The Parent Resource Center, Dunn Loring Center (Entrance 1, Room 224), 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, VA 22027. A map and directions are at

[http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map\\_base.cfm?locid=5008](http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map_base.cfm?locid=5008). Does your

child receive related services

(Hearing and Vision Services, Audiology, Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy, or Physical Therapy)? Attend this valuable

training to better understand which

students with disabilities require

related services, which related

services are needed and how this

support is delivered. Download the

flier

<http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/documents/Relatedservicesflier.pdf>. Please

register by calling the Parent

Resource Center at 703-204-3941 or

register on line at

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2WYT82Q>.

### 12 May- 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](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>.

### 15 May- POAC-NoVA Information

#### and Support Group Meeting.

The topic is "Financial Planning

Support". It is on Saturday, May

15th 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).

### 17 May- PVBIA Workshop for Girls

#### with Autism/Asperger's-

#### Navigating the Teen Years

starting on Monday, May 17, 2010. Lindsey

(a woman with autism) and Nas (a

woman who has worked with

children and teens with autism for 5

years) are really excited about

helping this small group of 7 girls

through a program that should build

their understanding of the world and

themselves. Girls in this program

should be between 14 and 18 years

old with High Functioning Autism or

Asperger's Syndrome. This group is

also to bond girls with one another.

Please only register if you daughter

will be able to attend all or almost all

of the six Monday sessions from

7:00pm to 8:30pm. Dates are May

17, 24, and June 7, 14, 21, 28.

Please feel free to ask questions at

[smcgrail@poac-nova.org](mailto:smcgrail@poac-nova.org).

### 18 May- FCPS PRC Workshop on

#### What Does That Mean? Reading

#### Assessments

on Tuesday, May 18,

2010 from 10 to noon at the Burke

Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak

Road, Burke, VA 22015. A map and

directions are at

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/b ranches/bc/direct.htm>. Do you know

what reading assessments are? Specialists from the Office of Special Education instruction will provide valuable information on reading assessments to parents of K-12 students receiving special education services. Learn when and why assessments are done, what assessment results mean for your child, and how the results can help you support your child's reading at home. Download the flier <http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/documents/WhatDoesThatMean.pdf>. Please register by calling the Parent Resource Center at 703-204-3941 or registering online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GV9V6KK>.

### **22 May- PVBIA Workshop on "Self Care and Independent Life Skills"**

by Jessica and Nick on Saturday, May 22, 2010 from 10am to 1:30pm in Burke. This class is designed for parents, caregivers and teachers of early and intermediate learners. Topics will include: Oral and Personal Hygiene, Toilet Etiquette and Simple Food Preparation. The workshop will cost \$25. For more information, please email [smcgrail@poac-nova.org](mailto:smcgrail@poac-nova.org).

### **22 May- Sensory Friendly Movie.**

Please join AMC and the Autism Society for "Shrek Forever After". It is on Saturday, May 22, 2010 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 new current in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis with the "Sensory Friendly Films" program.

### **22 May- Education Conference on AD/HD: Knowledge is Power.** Join

CHADD (Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorders) in Reston, Virginia at the Hyatt Regency Hotel for a one-day conference that will feature some of the world's leading researchers, clinicians, and experts providing critical information about managing AD/HD that will help teachers, parents, adults with AD/HD, and mental health professionals. Continuing education credits will be available to educators and mental health professionals. To find an exciting preview of what awaits you at the Northern Virginia Education Conference, visit CHADD's website today: [www.chadd.org](http://www.chadd.org). We have assembled an impressive list of speakers and an incredible amount of information - [http://www.chadd.org/Content/CHADD/Conferences\\_Training/RegionalConferences/EducationalConference/default.htm](http://www.chadd.org/Content/CHADD/Conferences_Training/RegionalConferences/EducationalConference/default.htm). Register Now to receive a \$99 member rate, \$119 non member rate. Fees go up after March 15.

### **23 May- MEDICAID WAIVERS & SSI WORKSHOP.**

The Arc of Northern Virginia and members organizations of the Virginia Ability Alliance offer these workshops for families who want to know more about VA Medicaid Waivers and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Both issues can seem overwhelming at first glance, but you will get a basic introductory overview and will know the first steps to take at the conclusion of this workshop. There is a free download of waiver information from The Arc website. These workshops have been very well received so make sure to RSVP to reserve your spot. The workshops are FREE and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. It is on Sunday, May 23rd from 1 to 4pm at the Fairfax County Government Center (Conference Room 2-3), 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035.

RSVP to The Arc of NoVA, 98 N. Washington Street, Falls Church, VA 22046 at [www.thearcofnova.org](http://www.thearcofnova.org), or Phone: 703-532-3214 ext. 101, or Fax: 703-532-3398, or by E-mail: [info@thearcofnova.org](mailto:info@thearcofnova.org).

### **27 May- PVBIA Workshop on "Teaching Academics - Getting Started"**

on Thursday, May 27th from 7 to 9pm. This class is a prerequisite for the following classes in the series. The class will explain: what pairing is and why we do it; how to create and use the token system; the use of edible and manipulative reinforcers; attending to a lesser preferred activity; how to sustain attention to longer tasks; developing independent skills. After completing this class we would like participants to work at home with their child and then return with questions to the second class. 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](mailto: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](http://www.poac-nova.org/base.cgim?template=join_POAC-NoVA).

### **3 June- PVBIA Workshop on "Teaching Academics - Math"**

on Thursday, June 3rd from 7 to 9pm. Topics will include: beginning counting; addition; subtraction; 1-1 correspondences; word problems and, time permitting, multiplication. The second half of this class will be a question and answer session with instructors responding to your questions arising from the first class. 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](mailto: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](http://www.poac-nova.org/base.cgim?template=join_POAC-NoVA).

**4 June- FCPS PRC Workshop on SOS - Summer of Success 2 - Summer Reading Strategies** on Friday, June 4th, 2010 from 10am to noon at the Dunn Loring 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](http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map_base.cfm?locid=5008). Make this summer successful for your child! Join us to learn about local resources available to enhance leisure and academic skills. Presenters from FCPS, Fairfax County Park Authority, Therapeutic Recreation Services & more! Download the flier <http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/documents/SOS.pdf>. Please register by calling the Parent Resource Center at 703-204-3941 or register on line at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/G8JNMHP>.

**5 June- FCPS PRC Workshop on "10 Secrets to A Stress-Free Home & School Workshop for Parents & Teachers"** on Saturday, June 5th from 9:00am to 11:30am at the Woodson High School, 9525 Main Street, Fairfax, VA 22031. A map and directions are at [http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map\\_base.cfm?locid=2021](http://commweb.fcps.edu/directory/map_base.cfm?locid=2021). Join us for a humorous, practical workshop with nationally-recognized expert Kirk Martin. Create stress-free

mornings and homework time. Relieve anxiety, meltdowns and sensory issues. Eliminate defiance and disrespect. The Workshop is FREE to the community thanks to gracious sponsorship from Infant Toddler Family Day Care. Bring friends and neighbors-we'll have a great time, have several "Ah-hah" moments and leave with a dozen practical tools that will help immediately. Please register by calling the Parent Resource Center at 703-204-3941 or registering online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/223NM5D>. Visit [www.CelebrateCALM.com](http://www.CelebrateCALM.com) to learn more.

**5 June- POAC-NoVA Summer Socialization Workshop** on Saturday, June 05, 2010 from 10am to 1:30pm with Lesley and Nas in Fairfax. This is a great class to get families ready for the Summer and all the opportunities for socializing their child! This class is for parents with intermediate to advanced learners and will attempt to share with parents how to socialize your child with others in the community and at home. The workshop will cost \$25. For more information, please email [smcgrail@poac-nova.org](mailto:smcgrail@poac-nova.org).

**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](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- PVBIA 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](mailto: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](http://www.poac-nova.org/base.cgim?template=join_POAC-NoVA).

**12 June- POAC-NoVA Information and Support Group Meeting.** The topic is "Basics of Biomedical Interventions" with Dr. Janelle Love from 8096 Ventnor Road, Pasadena, MD 21122. It is on Saturday, June 12th from 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).

