

THE COALMINER



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Enrichment Program, PTA Membership, Coke Rewards</i>	2
<i>Boxtops, Staff Appreciation, Volunteer Thank You</i>	3
<i>Family Fun Run, Gifted Referral Process, Chess Club</i>	4
<i>Green Team, Pumpkin Lighting up date</i>	5
<i>Wiggle, Skate Night, Bingo</i>	6
<i>Fundraiser, Jog/Walk</i>	7
<i>Science and Engineering Fair</i>	8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear J.B. Watkins Parents,

Our PTA is off to a good start this year. We have already had many exciting programs and events, including Fall Spirit Wear, Fall Jog/Walk, Fall WEP, Skate-A-Way night, Adopt-A-Spot clean-up day, Pansy planting day, the Reflections program, Chess Club, McDonald's and Chick-fil-A nights, and a BINGO night. Also, our Sally Foster Fundraiser did well, and we had a huge turn-out for our Pumpkin Lighting. We also sent our Student Directory home to our Watkins' families.

At the October 2009 PTA meeting, Public Health Nurse Supervisor Joanna Enoch and Nurse Christie Bondurant gave an informative presentation on the H1N1 virus (also known as swine flu). At that October meeting, the PTA also approved paying \$249 for a 3-year license for rainforestmaths.com, which is a program that all of J.B. Watkins' students can use.

In November, the PTA donated money to J.B Watkins for the following programs and events: \$500 for copier paper/office supplies, \$650 for the 5th grade reception, \$1,000 for the AR program, Math Night and Battle of the Books, and \$3,000 for field trip support. The PTA also gave teacher checks to 68 J.B. Watkins teachers and specialists, totaling \$5,000. We hope that the teachers can use the money to buy equipment and supplies for their classrooms, or for however best it would help with their teaching at J.B. Watkins.

Upcoming December PTA events include Chess Club (Dec. 4), BINGO night (Dec. 4), and McDonald's night (Dec. 10). There is no PTA meeting in December. The next PTA meeting will be January 12, 2010. January and February PTA programs will include Chess Club (Jan. 8 and Feb. 5), McDonald's nights (Jan. 14 and Feb. 11), Chick-fil-A nights (Jan. 26 and Feb. 23), BINGO night (Jan. 29), Spring WEP, the Watkins Wiggle dance (Feb. 5) and Skate-A-Way night (Feb. 21).

I hope that everyone has a wonderful and safe Holiday season. Enjoy your family and your children.

Sincerely,
 Angela Castillo
 J.B. Watkins PTA President, 2009-2010

Your 2009-2010 PTA Board:

- Angela Castillo**
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 897-6939
- Vice President: Karen Ladnier**
ladnierk@yahoo.com
 319-0445
- Treasurer: Elise Stanfield**
estanfield24@gmail.com
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- Secretary: Robin Sheldon**
ct_sheldon@yahoo.com
 794-4305

Upcoming PTA Meetings:

January 12
February 9
 7 pm, JB Watkins Library

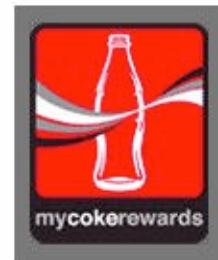


FALL 2009 WATKINS ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

If you walked into the JB Watkins front lobby over the past six Wednesday afternoons, no doubt you were met by glorious aromas, or elegant princesses serving tea. No, it wasn't an exclusive soiree, it was two of the Watkins Enrichment Program classes! And now that another WEP session has come to a close, we are pleased to report that a fabulous time was had by all! The fall 2009 WEP session offered 11 different classes, and almost 200 students chose to participate!

Thank you to all the parent volunteers who assisted with signing out students, and thank you to the J. B. Watkins teachers who graciously allowed their classrooms to be used by the after-school enrichment classes: Mrs. Ayer, Mrs. Couillard, Mr. Gates, Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Grunden, Mrs. Mathews, Mrs. Otto and Mrs. Self.

The winter WEP session will run from February 3, 2010 through March 10, 2010, and will offer a great selection of classes. Schedules will be sent home mid-January, so mark your calendars now, and we look forward to seeing you then!



My Coke Rewards

Recently JB Watkins began participating in the My Coke Rewards program to earn rewards for our school. The website is open for you and any Coke-drinking friends to enter codes off marked bottle caps to accrue points towards school supplies that teachers may use. Simply search for JB Watkins to be the recipient of your Coke rewards.

So far, we are off to a great start—keep those Rewards coming!!

If you have questions, contact Tina Pace
j24gk29h1@aol.com

PTA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Thank you to all of the staff and parents who have joined the PTA. We currently have 714 members!!

Mrs. Alford's 2nd grade class had the highest membership participation and had the highest percentage of students that had a member to join. Mrs. Alford's class will receive a celebration party this month. Way to go!!

Also, 100% of the JB Watkins teachers staff have joined the PTA this year!!

Thanks again to everyone who helps J.B. Watkins have the best PTA.

Melanie Suddreth

Chairman, PTA Membership Committee

GREAT JOB ON THE STUDENT DIRECTORY!!

Hopefully everyone received a copy of the 2009-2010 Student Directory sent home with children the week prior to the Thanksgiving Break. We think it looks great! Congratulations to Sarah Albro, Loren Costantino, Betty Jo Fulghum and Radha Manohar on a job well done!!

KEEP COLLECTING BOXTOPS!!

Well done, Parents!

With your support we collected over \$400 worth of boxtops in October. Boxtops are little red "coupons" that can be found on cereal boxes, toaster strudels, fruit snacks, toilet paper packs, tissue boxes, ziplock bags and tons of other household items. Though only worth 10 cents individually, when collected in bulk they can really make a difference to our school. If you haven't yet, please consider cutting off and collecting any boxtops you find on your grocery items. Our next submission is at the end of February. Let's see if we can beat our October submission!

Happy Clipping!!

Rebecca Shepard



STAFF APPRECIATION

Many, many thanks to all the parents who helped support the 4th Grade Conference Day Meal! The teachers and staff enjoyed all the delicious pizzas made by CICI's PIZZA. In addition, they appreciated the fall candy donated for the last week of October and the tasty pies during November.

We will continue showing our appreciation to our Watkins staff in January when the 3rd grade hosts a Soup Luncheon on Wednesday, January 13. Room parents – you will hear more info about this luncheon before leaving for the holiday break.

In addition to the luncheons, the committee will continue to sponsor other treats and raffles throughout the year. If you would like to donate items to support these events – please let us know paris972@msn.com.

These special events would not be possible without the help and support of all the wonderful parents!

Staff Appreciation Committee

THANK YOU, ROOM PARENTS, VOLUNTEERS AND J.B. WATKINS FAMILIES!

谢谢你

Our volunteers have been busy this year, and they're just getting started! Not only have they been gathering volunteers for school-wide events and helping out in the classrooms, but they are also working behind the scenes to organize class celebrations, coordinating picture days and volunteering, assisting with performances, providing teacher support, and the ominous "other duties as assigned"! This holiday season, please know that your time, effort and commitment to the J. B. Watkins students are genuinely appreciated!

Thank you, thank you, and thank you!

Chess Club

Chess Club continues on the first Friday of each month, 8:15-9:10am in the school cafeteria. The cost is \$2.00. A light breakfast is provided. Check the Lantern each week for details and the registration form (next session is December 4, 2009). We look forward to seeing everyone!

Any questions, please contact:

Becky Rose

rdrvet@verizon.net

or

Tracie Jessup

jessupfive@verizon.net



JB WATKINS FAMILY FUN RUN

Worried about the holidays approaching and all the *food and calories* that go with it? Or perhaps you are hoping the weather stays warm so you can continue to be active outside. Maybe you are looking for a little motivation to start working out again (or continue to workout over the winter)! What ever the case may be, we have the answer!

J.B. Watkins will be hosting their annual Family Fun Run Saturday, April, 24. Now, you may be thinking it is a long way off, but with all the activities at school and outside of school, it will be here in the blink of an eye. The Family Fun Run consists of three races: ½ mile, 1 mile and a 5K and is open to participants of all fitness levels.

We are hoping to make this not just a Watkins event, but a community event. We would like to encourage you to spread the word about our race to all of your friends and family. More information about the J.B. Watkins Family Fun Run will be posted on the PTA website and The Lantern later on in the year.

Happy Exercising,

Ginger Grizzard

PTA Health and Safety Representative

GIFTED REFERRAL AND IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

Some families may have questions regarding the gifted programs in the Chesterfield County School system. For more information regarding this topic:

1. visit the "Instructional Programs" section of the CCPS website found at:

<http://w3test.chesterfield.k12.va.us/CCPS/instruction/instruction.htm>

2. in the dropdown box (center of the page), click on "Gifted Education"
3. information about the program, FAQs and information about the screening process is there (under the various tabs).

Please be sure to have conversations with your child's teacher as well. Forms for parent referrals can be picked up in the school office.

Remember, **Referral Deadline for K-4th and 6th-12th is February 1st **

GREEN TEAM NEWS

Thanks to our 29 volunteers who helped on November 8 for our *Adopt-A-Spot* school clean-up. We collected 5 bags of trash and recycling, not including the desk and chair we found in the woods near the track! Also, thanks to those who donated items for *America Recycles Day* on November 13.

Throughout the year, we will continue to collect the following recycling items:

- Bottle caps (shampoo, water, soda, milk, flip tops and many more)
- Rechargeable batteries
- Printer cartridges
- Cell phones
- Used & broken crayons
- Glue sticks and glue bottles (\$0.02 per item goes to Watkins)
- Drink pouches (\$0.02 per item goes to Watkins)

*these donations may be deposited in the recycling cart in the school lobby!

- Newspapers and cans

*these donations can be deposited in the red and green bin in the teachers parking area

Remember to start saving your greeting card fronts as we will begin collecting those in January!

Our Walking Wednesdays will continue throughout the year. Remember to find a safe route and invite your friends and their kids to walk along with you. It's a great way to get outside, get exercise and be with friends. Remember Safe Routes to School suggests that you have no more than six children to one adult.

We would like to thank the Red Robin restaurant for donating 500 reusable cups for our Class parties. If all the second through fifth grade classes use these, we can keep over 2,500 juice boxes out of the landfill. We appreciate their generous donation!

If you are interested in helping with our Drink Pouch Brigade, please email me!

Catherine Anderson (greencatharine@gmail.com)

Green Team



PUMPKIN LIGHTING SUCCESS!!

On behalf of the Pumpkin Lighting Committee, THANK YOU to everyone who came to the Pumpkin Lighting Festival - we had an unbelievable turnout! The book fair, face painting, games, cupcake walk, nail and hair painting, tattoo parlor, and silly string stations were lots of fun! Thank you also to all the volunteers that gave their time to work that evening, to everyone that donated soda and/ or baked goods, and to all those who came out and supported our school!

A very special thank you goes out to Jeff Allums of Baja Bean for providing the taco bar, and Cupcakes by Barbara for donating the delicious cupcakes for the Cupcake Walk! Thank you also to our Grillmaster Extraordinaire: Will Mason! We are very lucky to have so many wonderful, supportive parents and teachers and administrators at Watkins! Thank you all SO much!

THE WIGGLE IS COMING!

Everyone mark your calendars for the annual Watkins Wacky Winter Wiggle!

The date is February 5th from 7-9. Details for ticket sales will come home in January so parents check those backpacks. This is a great family dance that the kids love. We will have Jason Paige for our DJ again this year and he will have plenty of fun and games and lots of Wiggling for the kids and parents. Check the Lantern for further information as it gets closer. Remember tickets are first come first serve.

Any questions call or e-mail Hazel Snead 400-9431 ddsnead@aol.com



WATKINS SKATE NIGHT IS BACK!!

When: Sunday, February 21

Where: Skate A Way
3330 Specks Drive (off of Hull Street near the Waffle House)
Midlothian VA 23112
674-5070
www.sk8away.com

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 (Doors open at 5:30)

Cost: \$5.00 Admission \$2.00 Roller Skates \$3.00 Roller Blades

TEACHERS AND STAFF SKATE FOR FREE!!!!

Concession stand will be open for drinks and snacks. Any questions please contact Shelley Neofotistos at 897-8279 or paris972@msn.com.

FREE FAMILY FUN BINGO NIGHT!

The PTA sponsors lots of fundraisers, but this holiday season, it's time to have some FUN! As those who have attended know, J. B. Watkins Bingo Nights are more fun than a barrel of monkeys, but given the current economic situation and the time of year, family activities can break a budget. The J.B. Watkins PTA recognizes this, and wants all of our families to be able to spend some time together this holiday season. So on December 4th, the PTA is offering a Family Fun Bingo Night **TOTALLY FREE OF CHARGE!** Registration/tickets are still required, and space is limited to cafeteria capacity, but the excitement will fill the room, so get your tickets now! Join other Watkins families for an evening of FUN, REFRESHMENTS and BINGO on Friday, December 4th from 6:30 PM until 8PM. Hope to see you there!

Want to volunteer, or have a question?

Please contact Maggi Lewis at JML8892@verizon.net.



WISHING FOR CHANGE

Wishing For Change

During the week of December 7-12, J.B. Watkins Elementary will be participating in a charity event to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Greater Virginia. Abby Allums, a third grader in Mrs. Evans' class, has organized this as a way to help other children. She and her class are leading the Watkins students and hoping to inspire their peers to think about kids in need this time of year.



The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Greater Virginia enriches the lives of children with life-threatening medical conditions by granting them a wish that provides enjoyment and hope. To provide this invaluable service, the Foundation relies on donations from individuals and corporations.

Beginning December 7, a wishing well will be set up in the front foyer of the school. We'd like to encourage everyone to participate by bringing in extra change and making a wish for a child in need during the holidays.

Please contact Liz Allums at lizallums@bajabean.com for more information.



FALL JOG/WALK CLUB

Thanks to all our participants and their parents for coming out this fall to jog and walk with us. We had another successful season with 70 children participating. 5th grader, Andy Unmussig, passed the 200 mile mark this fall! We logged 761 miles between our groups and estimated we could run to Walt Disney World with miles to spare!

As always, Mother Nature makes our club interesting! Some days it was hot and we had popsicles and some days it was so cold we drank hot chocolate after running. The kids enjoyed visiting with friends while exercising whether it was hot, cold, wet, or dry!

We appreciate our parents bringing the children as well as handing out sticks, pouring water cups and tallying laps for us. We couldn't do it without you!

Please keep a lookout in the Lantern this Spring for our starting dates - possibly March 15th. Since our school is committed to recycling and being green, we will publish information online through the website and the Lantern.

We look forward to the addition of Mr. Gates to our club this Spring. He has the knowledge and enthusiasm to make Jog/Walk even better! We hope to see all our participants in the Spring and encourage everyone to stay active over the Winter.

Christen Whitten and Sidney Newton
(Grades 3-5) (Grades K-2)

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE JB WATKINS ANNUAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR!

This years Fair will take place on March 24, 2010 from 6:30-8:30. It will include projects submitted by students, a display of engineering projects completed in the classrooms through out the year and hands on exhibits and events.

The fair itself is non competitive and all students are eligible and encouraged to participate. Sign up will begin in late January and will be available online and through the classroom.

Do you want to get started early? Check out these great links:

<http://www.all-science-fair-projects.com>

<http://scienceclub.org/scifair.html>

<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral>

<http://www.sciencenewsforkids.org/pages/sciencefairzone/topics.asp>

Questions? Contact Barbara Cohen at barbara.cohen@capitalone.com or 804-897-5655

DON'T FORGET MCDONALD'S AND CHIK-FIL-A NIGHTS!

Upcoming McDonald's Nights:

(5p-8p)

December 10

January 14

February 11

Upcoming Chik-fil-A Nights:

(5:30p-8p)

January 26

February 23



Do you have something
you would like to have
put in the next
Coalminer newsletter?

Submit items by
February 15, 2010 to
Beth Marshall

Email:
bmarshall@mcvh-vcu.edu