

THE COALMINER



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear J.B. Watkins Parents,

The 2009-2010 school year has been a challenging year in many ways, but the PTA has been able to accomplish many things and has brought a lot of great programs and events to J.B. Watkins this year.



This spring, the PTA has been busy at Watkins. In March, we held the Wiggle dance and helped sponsor the Science and Engineering Fair. In April, we paid for the Music Around the World Assembly, had a BINGO night, the Family Fun Run and the Talent Show. In May, the PTA provided a Staff Appreciation week, we had our Carnival, and had a Blood Drive. In addition to those events, this spring we have also had a Spirit Wear spring sale, Chess Club meetings, McDonald and Chick-fil-A nights, spring Jog/Walk and an Adopt-A-Spot clean up day.

Through the Family Fun Run, the PTA was able to raise \$1,200 towards the Joseph Armstead Rock Wall that will go into our gym. Our Carnival raised \$6,500, and some of that money will also go towards the Rock Wall, with the rest going to support our programs and to buy supplies and items that are on our school and teacher wish lists. On August 2, we will have the 1st Annual JB Watkins Elementary Golf Outing in Memory of Joe Armstead. It will be held at Stonehenge Golf & Country Club, and proceeds will also go towards the Rock Wall.

As this school year ends, I want to thank our out-going PTA Executive Board members Robin Sheldon, who has been our Secretary for the past two years, and Elise Stanfield, our Treasurer this year. Thank you to Robin and Elise for all that they have done to support our PTA and our school. I also want to welcome our new PTA Executive Board for the 2010-2011 school year: Angela Castillo, President, Karen Ladnier, Vice President, Colleen Kopidis, Treasurer, and Beth Marshall, Secretary. Thank you Karen, Colleen and Beth for your willingness to help, and I look forward to working with each of you during the next school year.

As always, thank you very much to all of our volunteers and to everyone that supports our PTA. We are proud of all that we have been able to do for our school and for our children this year, and we are looking forward to the next school year. Enjoy the summer!

Sincerely,
 Angela Castillo
 J.B. Watkins PTA President, 2009-2011

Your 2009-2010 PTA Board:

- Angela Castillo
angelamcastillo@verizon.net
 897-6939
- Vice President: Karen Ladnier
ladnierk@yahoo.com
 319-0445
- Treasurer: Elise Stanfield
estanfield24@gmail.com
 814-4734
- Secretary: Robin Sheldon
ct_sheldon@yahoo.com
 794-4305

Upcoming PTA Meetings:

Sept 14
 October 12
 7 pm, JB Watkins Library

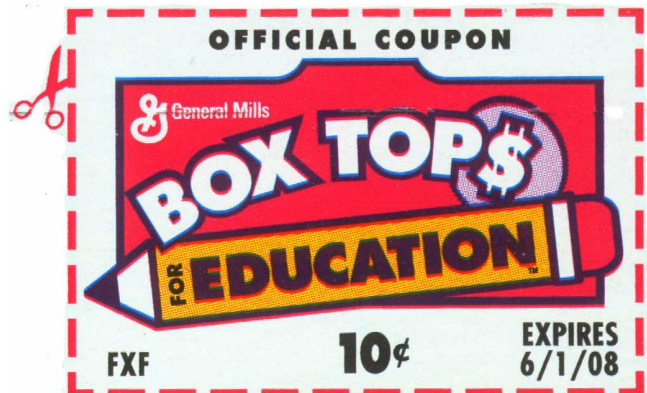


DON'T FORGET: KEEP COLLECTING ALL SUMMER LONG!!!!

Just think—those little boxtops add up!!

This year, from Boxtops you sent in, about \$1400 was raised for our school, and already \$400 has been earned towards the 2010-11 school year goal!

Way to go—and keep on collecting!!!



STAFF APPRECIATION

As the end of school approaches, we wanted to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers that have helped honor our JB Watkins Staff throughout the year. A special thank you to the First Graders for the wonderful Mexican luncheon they sponsored over Teacher Appreciation Week in May. The delicious food was catered by **Baja Bean**. They are located at **1520 W Main St** if you would like to try them out! In addition, **Candela's** restaurant donated pizzas that week as an unexpected treat for the staff. They have a restaurant right here in Midlothian located at **14235 Midlothian Turnpike** – next to Kroger --- some of the best Italian food around! A special thanks goes out to Lee Ann Falvo from Bella Petit and Karen Reams from Mary Kay who donated raffle items for the staff!

The week would not have been complete without the **80+** volunteers who came in and watched classes to allow the teachers an extra 30 minutes to eat lunch. THANK YOU!

There is one final event for the staff to enjoy on June 16 when the Kindergarteners will host a Staff Breakfast – thanks in advance to all of those involved.

The 2009-2010 year have been a successful one and we hope that the *entire* JB Watkins Staff knows how much we truly appreciate all the time and effort they put into our children and our school.

STAFF APPRECIATION COMMITTEE

1ST ANNUAL WATKINS GOLF OUTING

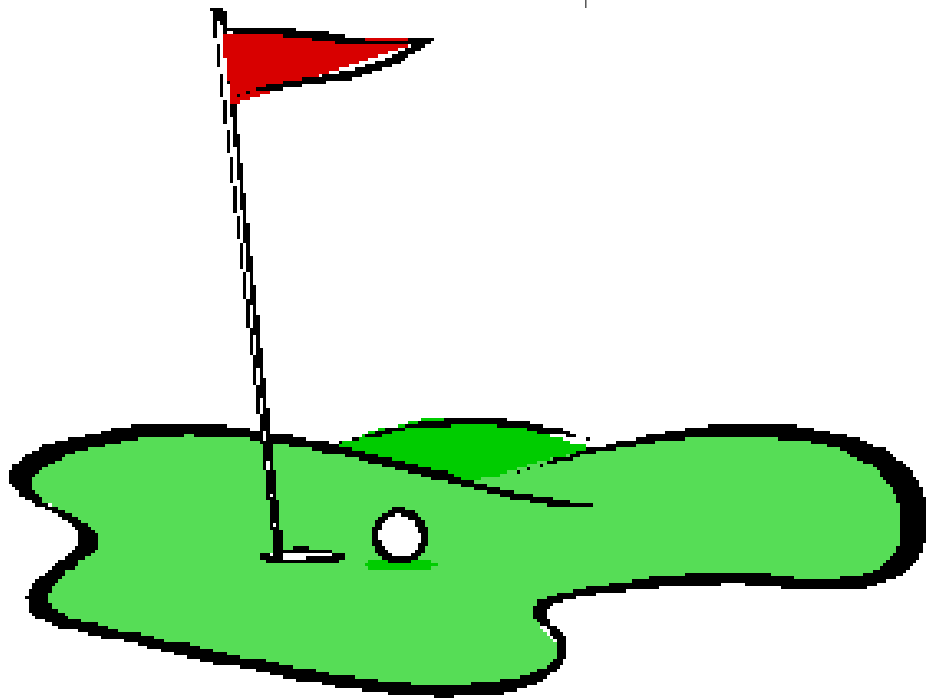
As many of you may know, J.B. Watkins was stricken with grief when a third grade student, Joseph Armstead, passed away suddenly in January. The Watkins family, including students, faculty and parents united in a great way to help ease some of the financial burden for the Armstead family. Now it is time to do something for Joe Armstead. The school, PTA and Mr. and Mrs. Armstead have decided to purchase a rock wall in memory of Joe Armstead.

This rock wall (climbing wall) will be an 8ft. tall by 32ft. long structure that will be used and enjoyed by all the students that walk through the doors at Watkins Elementary. We have picked out the rock wall and have been cleared by the county's risk management division to have it installed; now we just need to raise the money to purchase it.

This summer, on *AUGUST 2ND*, Stonehenge Country Club will be hosting the first annual JB Watkins Elementary Golf Outing in memory of Joseph Armstead. This golf outing will help raise money to purchase the rock wall for our school. A brochure that includes a biography of Joe Armstead and all the registration fees and information was sent home with the youngest child at the school. We welcome golfers of all different ability levels. Please take the time to consider participating in this wonderful event. Also, this event is open everyone, not just Watkins 'family' members.

Thank you,

John-Paul Gates
Physical Education Teacher



MUSIC AROUND THE WORLD

The Watkins PTA sponsored the Music Around the World assembly on April 23, 2010. Jimbo and Kim Cary played instruments and sang songs from several countries, including Mali, Spain, and China. Students and teachers also got to play some of the instruments during the assemblies. Here are a few pictures from the event.



SAVE THOSE GENTLY USED CLOTHES

Anyone who would still like to donate clothing for use by fellow JBW students, please email Niki Mason at VTalum97@gmail.com. Parents of students who could use these gently used clothes can contact JBW Guidance Counselor Sarah Spencer who will work with Niki to distribute clothing.



MY COKE REWARDS

If you haven't already heard, you may have seen codes under marked Coke and Coke product bottle caps—all you have to do is sign up online (ITS FREE!!), enter the code under the My Coke Rewards cap, and Watkins can accumulate points to purchase supplies!! ITS EASY...so get drinking!!



MMS PTA NEEDS YOU!!!

Attention Parents of Rising 6th Graders!

The Midlothian Middle School PTA would love to have your help for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year. If you interested in becoming involved, please contact Annetta Riekkel at triel@comcast.net. This is a great way to stay involved with your child's middle school educational experience!

Annetta Riekkel
MMS PTA

THANK YOU JBW VOLUNTEERS!

I would like to take this opportunity to send a sincere "thank you" to everyone who has volunteered for school events over the past year for me. Without your help, the PTA would never be able to help our school and students as much as we have been able to.

For future volunteering, be on the look out for the PTA to launch their nlisthelp.com site where volunteers will be able to sign up on-line and receive timely information about opportunities to help your school!

Thanks so much!

Dona LaChance
Volunteer Coordinator

GREEN TEAM NEWS

As we come to the end of our second year of "Watkins Goes Green" we are so thrilled to see that so many of our students are embracing the importance of being good to the environment. Since last year we have added many new activities. Thanks to all of you who helped to make them so successful. If we all make little changes in our everyday lives, we can truly make a big difference. This year your Green Team participated in the following areas:

Science Fair ~ the DEQ came out and helped us learn about pH levels in our water

Carnival ~ 5 portable recycling bins were borrowed from CVWMA; Niki Mason with help from Becky Rogers created reusable decoration

Staff Appreciation ~ Purchased real flatware(to replace plastic), tablecloths, and biodegradable bowls and plates that were used at all staff luncheons

Class Parties ~ Red Robin restaurant donated 550 reusable cups were used during class parties throughout the year for 2nd - 5th grades.

You also helped our school to collect and recycle the following items:

Glue sticks/glue bottles ~ 31 lbs which equals approximately 2,488 items recycled by Terracycle and Elmer's Glue

Bottle caps ~ 42 lbs worth which are recycled by Aveda

Card fronts ~ 1,423 recycled by St. Jude's ranch for Children

Drink pouches ~ over 3,000 and counting which are recycled by Terracycle

Broken crayons ~ 5 lbs worth sent to Crazy Crayons to be made into new crayons

Single-stream recycling ~ 400 lbs of recycling was put in our school's recycling bin each week this year by our students and custodians!

In addition to all our recycling, many thanks go out to our Watkins Ambassador's Green Team who helped to recycle for our resource teachers and read our Tuesday Green Tips on the announcements. They also helped with our very successful Earth Week activities.

We look forward to a even better program next year please email me if you would like to be part of our planning team over the summer.

Thanks,

Catharine Anderson

Watkins Green Team

greencatharine@gmail.com



**Have A
Happy
Summer !!!**