

# THE COALMINER



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**Your 2009-2010 PTA Board:**

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**Secretary: Robin Sheldon**  
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 794-4305

**Upcoming PTA Meetings:**

**March 9**  
**April 13**  
 7 pm, JB Watkins Library

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear J.B. Watkins Parents,

2010 started off with the very sad news that J.B.Watkins lost one of our 3rd graders, Joe Armstead. Our thoughts and deepest sympathies are with the Armstead family. The PTA had a collection for the family, and our January BINGO night was also a fundraiser for the family. Through these fundraisers, we were able to donate \$4,350 to the Armstead family. Thank you very much to everyone that donated and supported the Armstead family. It was greatly appreciated. The PTA is also planning to donate money to the school to help pay for a piece of playground equipment to honor Joe.

In February, the PTA gave \$700 to the school to help pay for a Chinese Acrobat assembly on February 15. The timing of the assembly worked well because it came the day after the Chinese New Year started, it supported our Chinese World Language curriculum, and it coincided with a gymnastics unit in P.E. class. In February we also had a Skate-A-Way night, which was a fun night and got the children moving. Our Wiggle dance has been rescheduled to March 5 due to all of our February snow and snow days. On March 12, the PTA is sponsoring a Music Around the World assembly for all grade levels. This program will help support our Music curriculum.

This Spring, we have many exciting PTA programs and events going on, including Spring WEP (which runs through March 17), Spring Jog/Walk, Chess Club (March 5, April 2), McDonald night (March 11), BINGO night (March 19), and Chick-fil-A nights (March 23, April 27). We also have our Science and Engineering Fair on March 24, our Variety Show on April 16, and our Family Fun Run on April 24. Upcoming PTA meetings are March 9 and April 13.

Thank you to all of our volunteers and to everyone that supports our PTA. We are proud of all that we are able to do for our school and for our children.

Happy Spring,

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



# Watkins Family Fun Run/Walk 5K, 1 Mile, or 1/2 Mile



**DATE:** Saturday, April 24, 2010 !!

**Schedule of Events:**

- 7:45 a.m. Check-In
- 8:00 a.m. Warm-up with Mr. Gates
- 8:15 a.m. 5K Begins
- 9:00 a.m. 1/2 Mile Begins
- 9:15 am 1 Mile Begins

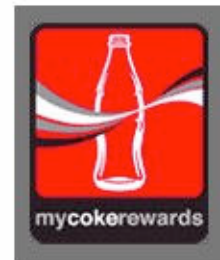
**Prizes:** First place awards will be given for K-5 boys and K-5 girls in the 5K and 1 Mile!

T-shirts will be provided to all participants who register by April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**COURSE:** All races will start and finish at the school track. The 1/2 Mile is on the school track. The 5K and 1 Mile are mostly off-road courses with a combination of flat and hilly terrain. The 5K will proceed around the Woolridge Road lake and into the Midlothian Coalmine paths.

**ABSOLUTELY NO PETS! STROLLERS WILL BE ALLOWED ON 1/2 MILE COURSE ONLY!**

For more information contact: Ginger Grizzard at [grizzard5899@verizon.net](mailto:grizzard5899@verizon.net) or Mr. Gates at [John-Paul\\_Gates@ccpsnet.net](mailto:John-Paul_Gates@ccpsnet.net)



## My Coke Rewards

JB Watkins is still 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.

**Keep those Rewards coming!!**

If you have questions, contact Tina Pace [j24gk29h1@aol.com](mailto:j24gk29h1@aol.com)

**CHESS CLUB**

The Chess Club will continue the first Friday morning of each month through June! Please see the weekly Lantern for details. If you have any questions please contact Becky Rose (rdrvet@verizon.net).

Keep Sending  
In Those  
Boxtops!!!



Keep Sending  
In Those  
Boxtops!!!

**DON'T FORGET!!  
THE WIGGLE IS THIS WEEK!!**



Due to the weather back on February 5, the Watkins Wiggle has been rescheduled for THIS FRIDAY, MARCH 5 from 7-9pm. Any questions call or e-mail Hazel Sneed. ( 400-9431, [ddsnead@aol.com](mailto:ddsnead@aol.com))

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

## Upcoming McDonald's Nights:

(5p-8p)

March 11  
May 13

## Upcoming Chik-fil-A Nights:

(5:30p-8p)

March 23  
April 27  
May 25

## Mark Your Calendars!

In cooperation with Virginia Blood Service, the JB Watkins PTA will sponsor a spring Blood Drive on **May 18**.

Be on the lookout for more information as the date draws closer.

For more information, you can contact::

Stephanie Gonzalez  
Blood Drive committee chair  
[stephgonz@hotmail.com](mailto:stephgonz@hotmail.com)



## COME SUPPORT THE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

Join us on

Wednesday, March 24th, 6:30-8:30 pm  
JB Watkins Cafeteria

for our Annual Science and Engineering Fair!

Come support hard work submitted by our students, and see a variety of engineering projects completed in the classroom throughout the year!

There will be a variety of hands-on science activities and presentations will be available through out the school that night—it will be a fun and educational experience for all ages!!.

For questions, contact: Barbara Cohen ([Barbara.cohen@capitalone.com](mailto:Barbara.cohen@capitalone.com))

## GREEN TEAM NEWS

Your Watkins Ambassadors have started a new program called "Caught Green – Handed!" The program will highlight students who are caught in the act of being green or environmentally friendly, generally setting a good example for others. Some examples would be bringing reusable lunch containers and water bottles, recycling paper or using the back side, picking up trash on the playground, reminding friends to recycle, just to name a few. Teachers and other staff members will recognize those that they "catch green-handed" and each week the Ambassadors will read one nominated students name on the morning announcements. All students that have been "caught" will be recognized on the new bulletin board in the cafeteria. Our hope is to spotlight these good deeds and inspire others to do them as well!

Many thanks to all those that donated their greeting card fronts in December— we collected 1,423 cards— what an amazing total! These cards are being sent to St. Jude's Ranch for children and instead of being thrown away or even recycled, they are being reused and getting a new life. Way to go Watkins!

### Upcoming events:

Earth Hour: March 27, 2010 at 8:30

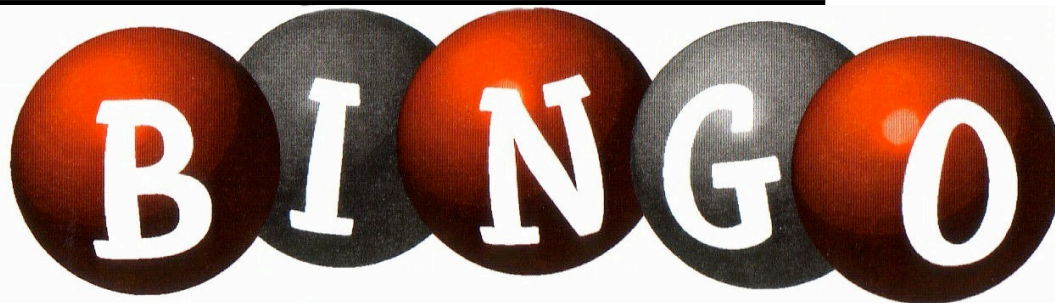
By turning off your lights for one hour, each of us can make a positive impact.

Earth Week: April 19 – 23

Details will be in your Lantern

Catherine Anderson ([greencatharine@gmail.com](mailto:greenatharine@gmail.com))

Green Team



## BINGO NIGHT!!

Come out for the next JB WATKINS BINGO NIGHT, March 19!!



## Member Editorial

**Editor's Note:**

The following poem was submitted by a parent member who requested it be included in this edition of the PTA Newsletter. Although it is not customary for *The Coalminer* to print editorial pieces, it is included here as we all share concerns in the current economic climate as avid supporters of our school system.

### Budget Crunch Blues

Today I gather up my things,  
I'm old enough for school.  
I have my backpack and my lunch,  
my pencil box is cool.

I thought this year I'd have great times,  
I'd learn to read and write.  
But as I stepped into my room,  
it doesn't seem that bright.

My teacher says the lights stay low  
to save a buck or two.  
She told us we could bring in soap,  
so we won't catch the flu.

At lunch I see my teacher frown.  
There's no sandwich for her to eat.  
She said after the budget cuts,  
she can't afford lunch meat!

I'm not real sure what went wrong  
but something has to change.  
I haven't even learned my math,  
but all these cuts seem strange!

I hear my reading group is gone,  
the specialists were fired.  
My teacher has a second job,  
she sure looks really tired!

I just found out that every kid  
has a new role to play,  
we get to pick a special hall,  
which we must clean each day!

Just last year our taxes  
bailed out a bunch of crooks,  
so why... oh why... must I now pay  
for all of my own school books?

I guess this is just how it is  
to be a kid today.  
I merely thought I'd have some time  
to learn and laugh and play.

Although I'm very small,  
And some might think I'm weak,  
My voice is still important,  
I deserve a right to speak!

So during this time of struggle,  
when things aren't going so grand,  
I'm calling all the parents,  
it's time to take a stand.

It's not too late to dial your phone  
or send out a little note.  
To tell them not to touch our schools  
or they won't get your vote!

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# 2ND ANNUAL COALMINER CARNIVAL

## SAVE THE DATE!!

The Coalminer Carnival is scheduled for

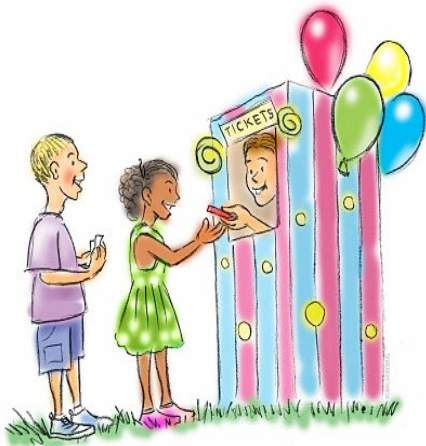
**Saturday, May 8<sup>h</sup> from 11am – 4pm.**

There will be lots of fun, food, games, prizes and much, much more, so mark your calendars now so you don't miss any of the excitement!



## The Coalminer Carnival wants YOU! (To Volunteer!)

Those games and booths aren't going to run themselves - we need your help! What a wonderful opportunity to give back to the school and have a great time, too! Contact Dona LaChance at [DLaBlais@verizon.net](mailto:DLaBlais@verizon.net) for more information!



## Calling All Crafters and Vendors

Are you looking for a way to get the word out about your business or introduce people to your product or handmade treasures? If so, the Coalminer Carnival is just what you've been waiting for! A limited number of tables are available for vendors and crafters! Registration forms will be available on the PTA website soon!

## JB Watkins Silent Auction

Room Parents will soon begin working on assembling class baskets, but we are ALWAYS looking for more Silent Auction items! If you own a business, service, or just have a great item to donate, please contact the Maggi Lewis at [JML8892@verizon.net](mailto:JML8892@verizon.net) or (804) 378-9697

## Carnival Sponsorship Opportunities!

Would your business like to partner with JB Watkins, but you're not quite sure how? Consider becoming a carnival sponsor! Contact Maggi Lewis at [JML8892@verizon.net](mailto:JML8892@verizon.net) or (804) 378-9697 for more information!

