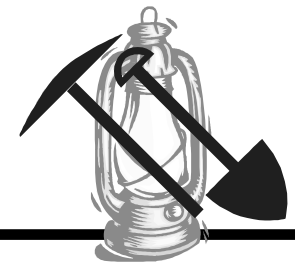


THE COALMINER



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Your 2009-2010 PTA Board:

- President:** 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:

October 13

November 10

7 pm, Watkins Library



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear J.B. Watkins Parents,

I hope that this school year is off to a good start for everyone. I am the PTA President for this year, and I want to thank outgoing PTA board members Stephanie Gonzalez, who was the PTA President for the past two years, Kristen Holland, who was the Vice President for the past two years, and Marian Kuhn, who was the Treasurer last year. We appreciate all of their efforts in continuing the wonderful PTA programs and events for all of Watkins' students.

At the June 2009 PTA meeting, the board voted to approve money for school requests and needs, including the following:

- \$2,000 Laminating machine
- \$2,700 Computer on wheels (COW)
- \$400 Aversion
- \$360 for 60 dry erase (Kindergarten)
- \$390 wall size magnetic dry erase boards (First Grade)
- \$300 paper (8 reams) card stock (Second Grade)
- \$390 magnetic whiteboards (Third Grade)
- \$500 for 2 whiteboards, 2 maps, screens (Fourth Grade)
- \$300 prisms, cylinders, computer microphone (Fifth Grade)
- \$175 to Art Department
- \$125 for 5th grade graduation activities
- \$200 to YMCA Seeds of Hope program
- \$3,000 to the Beautification Committee

For this school year, the PTA has many exciting programs and events planned, many returning favorites, and some new programs as well. So far, we have already had our Fall Spirit Wear sale, our first BINGO night, Fall Jog/Walk is going on, and upcoming Fall PTA events include Skate Away night (Oct. 11), WEP (begins Oct. 14), Pumpkin Lighting (Oct. 23), Night of Illusion (Oct. 30), Pansy Day (Nov. 6), and BINGO night (Nov. 20). The Sally Foster fundraiser is going on (sales end Oct. 9) and we have McDonald's nights (Oct. 8 and Nov. 12) and Chick Fil-A nights (Oct. 27 and Nov. 24).

Thank you so much to all of our PTA parent volunteers. It is only with their help that we are able to provide so many exciting PTA programs and events to our children at Watkins. I know that myself and my two children (a second-grader and a kindergartener here at Watkins) are looking forward to this school year and all of the fun programs ahead. Have a good school year and enjoy your children.

Sincerely,

Angela Castillo

J.B. Watkins PTA President, 2009-2010

A WORD FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Welcome back to another exciting year at J.B. Watkins! I look forward to serving as the Vice President of the PTA this year! One of my main duties as Vice President is to plan two special programs for our students. Our first visitor made quite an appearance on Tuesday, September 15th. Jerry Pallota, an author of children's books spoke to each grade level in the gymnasium, at two separate assemblies. He spoke about being an author, the steps a book goes through, and where he gets much of his inspiration. He also shared many fascinating facts about the unusual creatures that he uses in many of his books. Mr. Pallotta was fabulously entertaining and very funny. And certainly a lot fun!! I would like to thank Mrs. Mallory Smith for all of her hard work in hosting Mr. Pallotta and for all the prep work that goes into an event like this one! In the Spring we hope to have Jimbo and Kim perform in Music Around the World. They have performed at J.B. Watkins in the past and are a favorite among the students. Thanks and I hope everyone has a great start to the new school year!

Karen Ladnier

J.B. Watkins PTA Vice President, 2009-2010

WATKINS VOLUNTEERS

A big Thank You to all of the parents who have filled out the Volunteer Opportunities form. I am in the process of getting volunteer lists to the Committee Chairs. The support of all of our wonderful parents helps to make JB Watkins such a great school! If you have not turned in a Volunteer Opportunities form please do so as soon as possible. If you would like me to send you one electronically please contact me at WatkinsVolunteers@gmail.com.

All volunteers must also fill out a Volunteer Application. These can be found on the PTA website. Please fill one out and return it to the Guidance Office as soon as possible. This form is required by the county.

Thank you for your help!

Dona LaChance

Volunteer Coordinator

JB Watkins Elementary PTA

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Watkins is holding a school supply drive now through October 10th. All collected items will go to help out students at JB Watkins and Reams Elementary.

You can send in supplies with your student or place them in boxes in front of the cafeteria.

Thank you for your support and let's show our school spirit while giving to those in need.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Tina Pace

Watkins Friends Committee

929-5285



SALLY FOSTER IS BACK!!

Want to support your child and school?...Sally Foster is the primary fund raiser for JB Watkins. A large portion of the sales go to JB Watkins to support the growing needs of our school. The PTA uses the funds to buy such things as a COW. What's that you ask....COW is a computer on wheels. We all want our child to go the best school but we need to realize as parents that we are just as much a part of that. Sally Foster gives us the ability to put \$\$ back into the school.



Sally Foster offers gift wrapping, candies, and gifts that everyone can use. Best of all; all items are less than \$20! Set a goal for your child to sell 8 items. Each student who sells 8 items will attend a FREE Mad Science program. Also, Sally Foster is available online. Enter the code for JB Watkins (289845) to sign up. The first 100 online orders will receive the 2010 Entertainment Book worth \$\$.

Pick up your Sally Foster on Tuesday, November 3rd in the gym!

PTA MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all who have already joined the J.B. Watkins PTA. We appreciate your support! I will be sending home your membership card and Chick-fil-A coupon to you by the end of October. It is still not too late to join – just send in your \$5 per member in an envelope marked PTA dues to your child's teacher. The class with the highest membership participation will earn a celebration party. Thanks again for helping J.B. Watkins have the best PTA!

Melanie Suddreth
Membership Chairman

PARTICIPATE IN THE PTA'S REFLECTIONS PROGRAM

The Cultural Arts and Reflections program provides opportunities for students to express themselves and be recognized for their efforts in the arts. The theme for the 2009-2010 school year is: "*Beauty is...*". Please encourage your student to participate. All entries are due by October 28th, in the cafeteria, by 10:00 a.m.

Please contact Karen Ladnier at LadnierK@Yahoo.com or Niki Mason at vtalum97@gmail.com with questions.

**JB Watkins
Warmly Welcomes
The Following New
Teachers
& Administrative
Staff to
Our School Family:**

Kristin Kind, Kindergarten

Mai-Lyn Yang, 1st Grade

Elizabeth Rogala, 2nd Grade

Susan Wehinger, 3rd Grade

Sue Behnke, 3rd Grade

Kerri Inge, 5th Grade

Jenny Youman, Chinese

Debbie Wessel,
Assistant Principal

Denise Jackson,
Office Secretary

Paulette Scott,
Office Assistant

Lunch Buddies

The Lunch Buddy Program is off to a great start!

Thank you so much to all of our Watkins parents and family members who have donated their time in helping make the first weeks of lunch go so smoothly! Your smiles and overall presence not only comforts the children, but also gives our teachers the ability and peace of mind to enjoy their lunchtime.



Lunch Buddies help younger children open lunch items, and they respond to all students who ask permission to go to the bathroom, water fountain, or for whatever they need. Over 250 students eat lunch in the cafeteria at a time, and there are two Instructional Assistants there to help them all. A couple of parents in there helping out makes lunch go much more smoothly for the kids. Helping as a Lunch Buddy is a good volunteering opportunity if your schedule is not consistent - you can participate once a week, once a month, once a year; whatever works for you.

Thanks also to those of you on the schedule who haven't had the chance to work your shift just yet. If you haven't had the chance to sign-up yet, and you or someone you know would like to join the Lunch Buddies or get some information on the program, you may contact me at jbwlunchbuddies@yahoo.com or at the number listed below.

As a reminder to all of you who are on the schedule to work any lunch shift(s), don't forget to put your name in the Lunch Buddy Basket when you get your visitors badge. Starting in October, one lucky scheduled volunteer for each month will receive a prize. The prize for October will be a gift certificate to Panera Bread.

Thanks again for all of your support!

Chess Club will be starting in November - more details to come!

For more information, you can contact

Becky Rose

rdrvet@verizon.net

or

Tracie Jessup

jessupfive@verizon.net



Community Announcement:

October 17, 2009 10:00 AM-3:00 PM, Midlothian Middle School

The 28th Annual Midlothian Village Day Festival and Craft Fair is a fun filled day for the entire family. The festival is the largest community project each year for the Midlothian Junior Women's Club. Highlights of the festival include a parade sponsored by the Midlothian Foundation, craft fair, games, inflatables, food, entertainment, community booths, and a silent auction. All festival proceeds will be donated to local charities in the community. For information visit <http://www.midlothianfestival.net/> or email the festival chair at chair@midlothianfestival.net. Free.

Blood Drive! Donate and save 3 lives!

The PTA will once again sponsor a blood drive in cooperation with Virginia Blood Services. Please consider donation, what a wonderful way to give back! And if we can reach our goal of 30 units, there will be a pizza lunch for the children who have had a friend or family member donate. Look for the sign up sheet to be sent home with your child.

October 6th from 4pm to 8pm in the gym at JB Watkins.

See you there,
Stephanie Gonzalez
Blood Drive committee chair



Community Announcement:

U-2 Incident 50th Anniversary Exhibit on Display at the Virginia Historical Society January - May 2010

The Cold War Museum is pleased to announce that its mobile exhibit on the U-2 Incident will be displayed at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, Virginia between January 15 and May 31, 2010. The museum was founded in 1996 by Midlothian resident Francis Gary Powers, Jr. to honor Cold War veterans and preserve Cold War history.

Mr. Powers is the County Council Liaison for JB Watkins. He invites teachers, PTA members, and school officials to contact him if interested in organizing a field trip to see the exhibit or giving a presentation to students. He would provide a personal overview of the U-2 Incident to students and discuss what his father went through after being shot down over the former Soviet Union on May 1, 1960 while working for the CIA.

For more information on The Cold War Museum, please visit www.coldwar.org.

For more information on programs in place to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the U-2 Incident, a copy of Mr. Powers bio, and related information please visit www.garypowers.com. Mr. Powers can be reached at gpowersjr@coldwar.org.

PUMPKIN LIGHTING IS COMING!

Mark your family calendars for a SPOOKtacular event! The annual Pumpkin Lighting Fall Festival will be held Friday, OCTOBER 23rd from 5:30 - 8:00pm. Children are encouraged to wear a costume (no masks or pretend weapons allowed).

You'll be amazed at the custom carved PUMPKINS each classroom creates displayed on our school's front lawn. All students will have the opportunity to guess how many CANDY CORNS are in the jar the week before the event. The winning class will receive a breakfast of donut holes!

The SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR will be held in the gym and plenty of FOOD will be available in the cafeteria. This year we are adding a CHILI COOK-OFF! Bring your taste buds to enter your vote for the best tasting chili. Other activities include HALLOWEEN themed face painting, tattoos, hair and nail coloring. There will be a CUPCAKE WALK in the 3rd grade round sponsored by Cakes by Barbara Cohen.

Be on the look-out for TICKETS you can purchase ahead of time in your child's backpack and posted online at the PTA website the week of October 12th. You should also receive a communication from your Room Parent, who will be coordinating donations of drinks and desserts for the BAKE SALE.

This event would not be possible without the many PARENT VOLUNTEERS. If you have a Middle or High School student sibling who would like to volunteer they are more than welcome to help out. Please email watkinsvolunteers@gmail.com to sign-up for a one hour shift.

We're looking forward to a BOOtiful evening!

Pumpkin Lighting Committee:
Barbara Cohen, Kathy Harvel, Maggi Lewis & Sarah Peachee



**2009
PANSY
DAY!!**

Mark your calendars for the annual J.B. Watkins Pansy Day. It will be held on Friday, November 6, 2009.

Please send in a pansy to school with your child and someone will be there to greet them when they arrive. If you would like to participate in the planting of the pansies, please join us on Sunday, November 8th at 3:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact
Karen Ladnier
319-0445 or
LadnierK@Yahoo.com

JOG/WALK CLUB

The Jog/Walk club is excited about the Fall 2009 season. Our goal is to promote exercise, encourage self-discipline and to have fun. Every morning during the season kids meet in the back parking lot to stretch and prepare for a great twenty minute workout. After that it's off to the track to see how many laps we can complete before school. We have members who walk, members who jog and some who do both. Sometimes we even go backwards! Every morning all laps completed are recorded so that we can see just how far we go during the season. Those kids who make it to at least four sessions will receive a special reward at our Fall Jog/Walk recognition breakfast on November 11th.

You don't have to go far to find articles linking regular exercise with better health and Jog/Walk is a good way to develop that habit. Jog/Walk is a great way to promote such a healthy habit as well as a great way to wake up and prepare for a day of focused schoolwork. Jog/Walk is also a great place to socialize with friends before school. In addition to our recognition breakfast we hope, this season, to sponsor a race for participants to work toward and measure their progress over the season. We also have a few surprises planned for the season so don't miss out on the fun!



Students in grades three through five meet on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:40 in the parking lot behind the gym (near the ball diamond). Parents may drop off children for these meetings but must provide contact information and permission. If any parents are able to help chaperone on these mornings please contact Christen Whitten email: cawhitten@verizon.net Home: 897-2301 Cell: 339-2444.

Students in Kindergarten, First and Second grade meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:40 in the parking lot behind the gym (near the ball diamond). All participants must be accompanied by a Parent or Guardian at this time. For information contact Sidney Newton email: shnewton@comcast.net Home: 794-1188 Cell: 615-3395

If you have more than one Watkins student in your family you may choose to bring them to either (or both) group. We do ask that parents stay with children from the lower grades on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. For those of you with future Watkins students we hope you bring them along! This year strollers will be permitted on Tuesday and Thursday mornings! In the event of inclement weather all registered participants will be notified by email - or phone - before the start time.

The Fall Season may have started but it's not too late to join! There is an electronic form on the website and also a hard copy to download. If you'd rather you can show up in the morning and sign up on the spot! For questions feel free to contact Christen Whitten and/or Sidney Newton and we will be happy to answer them.

STAFF APPRECIATION

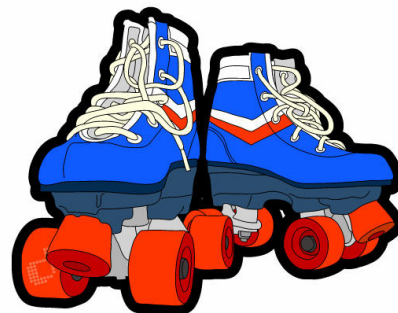
The Staff Appreciation Committee is looking forward to a fun and busy year!! During the first week of school, we already had the opportunity to show our appreciation to our teachers by giving them JBW Totes bags custom designed by MC Promotions.

Throughout the year, the committee has several luncheons and breakfasts planned. Each one is hosted by a different grade level. Below is a list of the dates:

Event	Grade	Date
Salad Luncheon	5 th	Oct 14
Conference Day Meal	4 th	Nov 3
Soup Luncheon	3 rd	Jan 13
Potato Bar	2 nd	Mar 10
Cinco De Mayo Mexican Fiesta	1 st	May 3
End of Year Breakfast	K	June 16

Room Parents – you will be receiving more information about these during the next couple of months. **Parents** - room parents will be looking for donations and help to support these events.

In addition to the luncheons, the committee will sponsor other treats and raffles throughout the year. **Businesses/Vendors/Crafters** – if you would like to donate items to support these events – please let us know or send an email to Shelley Neofotistos at paris972@msn.com. It is any easy way to help and promote your business...



WATKINS SKATE NIGHT!!

When: Sunday, Oct 11
Where: Skate A Way www.sk8away.com
 3330 Speeks Drive (off of Hull Street near the Waffle House)
 Midlothian VA 23112
 674-5070
Time: 6:00 - 8:00 (Doors open at 5:30)
Cost: \$4.00 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.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT: MAA FOOTBALL

We want to invite everyone to come out and support your fellow classmates as they play for the Midlothian Mustangs! Home to the J.B. Watkins School District!

10/3	5:00 PM	Woolridge vs. Midlothian	Midlothian Middle
10/7	6:30 PM	Midlothian vs. Davis	Providence Middle
10/10**	5:00 PM	Providence vs. Midlothian	Midlothian Middle
10/17	9:00 AM	Midlothian vs. Clover Hill	Grange Hall
10/24	5:00 PM	Midlothian vs. Powhatan Tribe	Powhatan Junior High
11/7	11:15 AM	Midlothian vs. Davis (flag only)	Gordon Elementary

All games are free! What a great affordable family activity!

This is our 2009 schedule (this schedule is a little different than what is posted on the website as this includes the start of our flag football games!)

****HOMECOMING!** Lots of fun activities for all before the game with the purchase of a wristband! You can get your wristbands that day.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at www.maasports.net



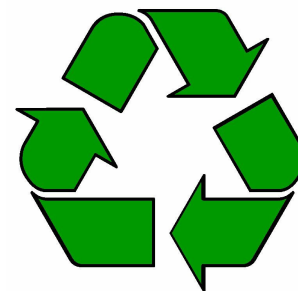
GREEN TEAM NEWS

The *Green Team* is back this year at J.B.Watkins and ready to help the students and their parents make positive impact. We have many activities planned for this year and we hope that your family will be a part of it all.

Your family can help keep the school grounds clean by signing up for our first Adopt-A-Spot clean-up to be held in November. Sign-ups will be announced in *The Lantern*. We will also continue to collect empty drink pouches (Capri Suns, Roaring Waters, etc.) in the cafeteria. While not using drink pouches is best for the environment, recycling them gives a second life. Let us know if your family would like to help with our drink pouch collecting.

Wednesday, October 7th is *International Walk to School Day* and Watkins will be participating. This annual event promotes walking for several reasons:

- Physical activity
- Awareness of how walkable a community is
- Concern for the environment
- Reducing traffic congestion and speed near schools
- Taking back neighborhoods for people on foot
- Parents and children sharing time together



What do you have to do? Find a safe route to Watkins, find friends that live near by you that want to walk together or find a friend that will let your children walk with them. All student walker must have parental supervision with a maximum of six to one child to adult ratio. That day is only our “kick-off” day - every Wednesday will be a “Walking Wednesday” so grab your tennis shoes and join us.

If you are interested in helping with the Green Team this year, please email me at: greencatharine@gmail.com.

WEP is coming! WEP is coming!

(What is WEP anyway?)

The Watkins Enrichment Program (WEP) is a 6 week, after-school program coordinated by the JB Watkins PTA. WEP offers students the opportunity to explore a variety of different activities without the obligation of a long-term commitment. There are generally 2 sessions each school year – a fall session and a winter/spring session. This fall there are LOTS of classes from which to choose! We will offer some new classes (Drumming, French and Jump for Joy!), as well as bring back some old favorites (Creative Kids Workshop, Young Rembrandts, and Young Scientists). In addition to these classes there are LOTS of other fun and interesting activities, including (but not limited to!) Kidz-R-Cookin', Cupstacking, Scrapbooking, Arts and Crafts, Fun to be Fit, Magic, French, and more! Brochures will be going home in backpacks the last week of September, and are due back with payment by Wednesday, October 7th.

If you would like to help, or have a great idea for a class, please contact Maggi Lewis at (804) 378-9697 or JML8892@verizon.net.

The Watkins Enrichment Program is the perfect way to try something new!



BINGO NIGHT SUCCESS!!

Back-To-School Bingo Night was a tremendous success!

Over 140 JB Watkins students and their families took part in the first Bingo Night of the new school year! Popcorn and drinks were provided, DJ Jason Paige graciously volunteered his time to call the numbers and spin the tunes, and the winners chose from prizes galore!

Monaca McCoy donated spiritwear for the parent raffle - CONGRATULATIONS to our spiritwear winners: Steve Lewis, Dora Neofotistos, Sandy Ramos, Kathleen Six and Juliane Steenkamer!

And a very sincere thanks to the families who participated, and the wonderful volunteers who helped make the night so much fun: Catharine Anderson, Laura Feuerstein, Lisa Kopecko, Dona and Gabby LaChance, Kendall and Kasey Lewis and Rebecca Shepard!

We can't wait to see you at the next Bingo night on Friday, November 20th!

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS FOR
THE FIRST
MCDONALD'S
&
CHICK-FIL-A
NIGHTS!!**

**McDonald's Nights:
(5p-8p)
October 8
November 11
December 10**

(Remember to mention Watkins at the register or drive-thru and to have your student register for prizes and the bike!)

**Chick-fil-A Nights:
(5:30p-8p)
October 27
November 24**

(Mention Watkins in the Drive-thru or come in and play the prize wheel!)

These nights are not only helpful for you, but a GREAT fundraiser for Watkins!

**COME OUT AND
SUPPORT
JBWATKINS!!**

**HOPE TO SEE YOU
THERE!!**

Social Media Invades J.B. Watkins PTA

Social Media, since its inception in 1997, seems to be the latest and greatest method for information sending and retrieval. You can find social media in all shapes and sizes from tweets to blogs to videos, this concept has taken over the world.

Our PTA has chosen just a few extra methods using social media to ensure you get the information you need as soon as you need it. If you become a fan of our Facebook page, you find out when the Lantern is posted, you can RSVP to the many exciting events hosted by the PTA or you can send us comments or suggestions on what you would like to see the PTA do.

Following us on Twitter will give you short and to the point update. We can post a status (properly termed a "tweet") with only 140 characters or less, therefore, so you get the main message right away.



We will still continue to post information on the J.B. Watkins PTA Website, in the Coalminer newsletter and you can find the information in the weekly school newsletter, the Lantern.

Please consider becoming a fan on Facebook. Click [here](#) to access the page. We would also love you as a follower on Twitter. You can find us tweeting at www.twitter.com/jbwatkinspta.

Leave us a direct message on Twitter, update a comment on Facebook or just send us a message via our website letting us know your thoughts on this new venture into the Social Media world and we will know what you think in a matter of seconds.

If you have any questions or concerns about social media, please contact our [webmaster](#).

The Facebook logo, featuring the word "facebook" in white, lowercase, sans-serif font on a solid blue rectangular background.

facebook

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

Submit items to Beth Marshall

Email: bmarshall@mcvh-vcu.edu



A safe, christian environment for children before & after school

Good Shepherd Child Development Center

Our before and after school program provides a safe, nurturing environment for your child. We provide a nutritious snack, supervised homework period and fun activities. Full-day child care is available for registered children on school holidays, school vacation weeks and snow days.

**Before & After School Elementary Programs
for J. B. Watkins, Evergreen and Swift Creek**

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
& CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
A MINISTRY OF REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH



Call Michele McTague at 804-385-2517

visit goodshepherdmidlo.com

