



The Coalminer

J.B. Watkins PTA
Newsletter

March 2010

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Upcoming PTA Meetings

Tuesday, March 8

Tuesday, April 12

Tuesday, May 10

Meetings are at 7pm in the
school cafeteria

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN
TO ALL PARENTS!!**

2010-2011 PTA Board Members

President: Angela Castillo
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Secretary: Beth Marshall
bmarshall@mcvh-vcu.edu

President's Message

Dear J.B. Watkins Parents,

The end of 2010 and the beginning of 2011 started off with the sad news that three J.B.Watkins families lost all of their belongings in two separate fires. Our PTA took up a collection to help the families, and many items were donated including furniture, electronics, clothing, household items, Christmas decorations, gift cards and more. Our PTA also donated \$100 to each of the three families. Thank you very much to everyone that donated and supported the families. It was greatly appreciated.

In February, the PTA donated \$400 to Watkins to help pay for Chinese New Year Celebrations, including a magician assembly highlighting the Year of the Rabbit. In February we also had the Wiggle dance and a Skate-A-Way night, which were both fun nights that got our children moving. On February 28th, the PTA sponsored "A String Celebration" assembly for all grade levels. This program supported our Music curriculum and tied in with our school-wide Dr. Seuss Day celebration.

This Spring, we have many exciting PTA programs and events going on, including Spring WEP (which runs through March 23), Chess Club (March 4, April 8, and May 6), McDonald's night (March 10, May 12), and Chick-fil-A nights (March 22, April 26, and May 24). We also have our Science and Engineering Fair on March 31, and our upcoming Talent Show (likely in May) and Family Fun Run (likely in April). Our 3rd annual Watkins Carnival is scheduled for May 21. Upcoming PTA meetings are on March 8 and May 10.

Even though it is spring, PTA planning for next year has already begun. Soon we will need a new PTA President, Vice President, and Secretary. Next year we will also need several new committee chairs. Please contact me (angelamcastillo@verizon.net) if you can help fill an open position for our PTA.

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, 2009-2011

Watkins Spring Blood Drive

SAVE THE DATE! The 2011 J.B. Watkins Spring Blood Drive is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 2011 from 3pm – 7pm. We invite family members and friends to think about making a heroic blood donation which can save up to three lives. You can contact Deb Dudley at dadjwd@comcast.net to make an appointment or sign up on the appointment sheets that will be distributed to each of the classes. Students will earn a voucher for ice cream by recruiting a donor AND the teacher with the most signups will receive a custom-made Pen!

Lunch Buddies Needs YOU!

As the year has gone by, we have lost some volunteers for our Lunch Buddies Program. If you have ever been at the school at lunch time, you know how valuable this service is to our children.

If you can help, please contact Jennifer Siegel at jbwlunchbuddies@yahoo.com



Don't forget the monthly Chick-fil-A and McDonald's Nights.

Chick-fil-A — March 22 and April 26
5:30-8:00 p.m.

McDonald's — March 10 and May 12
5-8 p.m.

Come out to skip a night of cooking while supporting the J.B. Watkins PTA!



THE CARNIVAL IS COMING!!

May 21, 2011
11am — 4pm

Be on the lookout for volunteer opportunities in upcoming weeks!

Watkins Educational Garden

We are excited to announce that plans are under way for Watkins first educational garden!

This garden will serve as a way to introduce JBW students to the concepts of gardening, container gardening, water conservation/ rain barrels, composting and most importantly, healthy eating habits. The garden will be located in the right corner of the courtyard as you head out to the Kindergarten round and will consist mainly of the 'three sisters garden', which your students will know from their Native American studies as corn, beans and squash. The container gardening will add some diversity to the 'three sisters' including cucumbers, tomatoes and other veggies students will recognize as being sold in the cafeteria. These container gardens are just one way for you to be a part of this project as they will be started at home by you, our JBW parents and students.



As most of you green-thumbs know, planting time is just around the corner so we need to get moving and we need YOU to be involved! If you would like to be a part of this very important and exciting project, please email the appropriate person listed below based on your area of interest.

Container gardening/seed starting: Catharine Anderson greencatharine@gmail.com

Three Sisters Garden/seed starting: **LEAD VOLUNTEER NEEDED!!**,
Christie_Bondurant@ccpsnet.net

Compost: Ann Counoupas counoupas@gmail.com

Rain Barrel: Niki Mason VTalum97@gmail.com

Finally, mark your calendars for a rain barrel/watershed workshop at JB Watkins on Saturday, April 30.



School Service Announcement

Fun With Faith

As we all know, there are many after school activities available to our children. One club, Fun with Faith, has been active at Watkins for many years. Fun with Faith seeks to provide solid biblical teaching to elementary school students....and (as the name suggests) have fun doing it!

This school year ('10-'11) there are three Clubs at Watkins – in 1st, 3rd and 5th grade. In fact, of the ten kids involved in the 5th grade; five students (Dylan Atkins, Alyssa Black, Timothy Mitten, Kellan Nedwick and Andrew Webb) have been involved every year since kindergarten!

It is a joy to experience children learning about and growing in their faith. Through the years, we've tackled hard questions from kids like, "If God knows everything, how big is His head?" We've worked through the difficulties of friends being mean, and thinking/praying through how God would want us to act in response. We've realized that God loves each of us, and wants us to know Him better.

Each year has a specific curriculum theme: K-2nd grade is "New Beginnings"; 3rd grade is "Adventures with God"; 4th grade is "Growing in Character"; 5th grade is "God and Science"; and 6th grade is a split curriculum: "Becoming a Young Man of God" and "Becoming a Young Woman of God".

As you consider your after-school plans for next year, be thinking about whether you'd like your son or daughter to be involved in Fun with Faith. (Parent volunteers are needed to lead these after-school clubs. Leaders are provided training, the curriculum and ongoing support. The more leaders we have, the more clubs we can offer to Watkins' students!)

For more information or if you are interested in becoming a parent volunteer, please contact Beth Mitten at: bmitten5@comcast.net or Beth Webb at: wearewebb@verizon.net. Note: Fun with Faith is not a school sponsored or PTA sponsored activity; but rather an independent non-denominational, not-for profit organization. Fun with Faith's website is: www.funwithfaith.com.

YOUR PTA NEEDS YOU!

There will be a number of upcoming vacancies on various PTA committees next year. In order to provide the most support to our children and to J.B. Watkins, we need volunteers! Given the diversity of our activities, the PTA can use you not matter how big or small of a time contribution you are able to make. If you have not become involved already, consider supporting your PTA in the upcoming school year!

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

Submit items to Coalminer Editor

Beth Marshall

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