



# The Coalminer

J.B. Watkins PTA  
Newsletter

October 1, 2010

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## 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 again this year, Karen Ladnier is our Vice President, Beth Marshall is our Secretary, and Colleen Kopidis is our Treasurer. We have a wonderful PTA at Watkins and have a lot of exciting programs and events planned for our children this year.

Along with providing fun programs and events for our children, the PTA is able to give money to our school to help fulfill school requests and needs. At the June 2010 PTA meeting, with money that we raised, the PTA donated \$3,000 towards the Rock Wall that was built over the summer in our gym. The PTA also donated \$6,000 to Watkins to help buy teacher and school "wish list items", including the following:

- (5) Aversion Document Cameras (about \$599 each)
- (2) COWS (Computer on Wheels) (about \$1,800 each)
- (6) Kidney-Shaped tables (about \$130 each)
- (2) "Everyday Math Counts" Kit ( for Grades 3 and 4) (\$250 each)
- (1) Wii Fit for Physical Education (\$200)

These items will benefit all of our Watkins children this year, and for years ahead.

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, our first Chess Club meeting, and our ornament sale. Upcoming Fall PTA events include Skate Away night (Oct. 10), WEP (begins Oct. 13), Pumpkin Lighting (Oct. 29), Reflections (entries are due Oct. 29), a Fall Fun Run, "Dash in Disguise" (Oct. 30), Pansy Day (Nov. 12), and pansy planting and Adopt a Spot clean-up day (Nov. 14). The Sally Foster fundraiser is going on (sales end Oct. 4) and we have fall McDonald's nights (Oct. 14 and Nov. 11) and Chick Fil-A nights (Oct. 26 and Nov. 23).

I want to thank all of our PTA Committee Chairs and our 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 third-grader and a first-grader here at Watkins) are looking forward to this school year and to all of the fun programs ahead. Have a good school year and enjoy your children.

Sincerely,

Angela Castillo

J.B. Watkins Elementary PTA President, 2009-2011

## 2010-2011 PTA Board Members

**President:** Angela Castillo  
angelaamcastillo@verizon.net  
897-6939

**Vice President:** Karen Ladnier  
ladnierk@yahoo.com  
319-0445

**Treasurer:** Colleen Kopidis  
cnkopidis@mac.com  
594-3607

**Secretary:** Beth Marshall  
bmarshall@mcvh-vcu.edu

## Staff Appreciation

The Staff Appreciation Committee is looking forward to a fun and busy year!!

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 <sup>th</sup>	Oct 20
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Luncheon	4 <sup>th</sup>	Nov 16
Soup Luncheon	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jan 19
Potato Bar	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mar 9
Cinco De Mayo Mexican Fiesta	1 <sup>st</sup>	May 2
End of Year Breakfast	K	June 15

**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](mailto:paris972@msn.com). It is any easy way to help and promote your business...

We have a great staff here at J.B. Watkins and we appreciate your help in showing them how thankful we are to have them!

Shelley Neofotistos, Catharine Anderson, Melissa Weeks and Julie Miller  
PTA Membership Committee

## PTA Membership News

Thank you to everyone who has joined the J.B. Watkins PTA so far. I am still processing many of the envelopes and hope to have the membership cards to everyone by mid-October. There is still time to join – Just send in \$5.00 per member in an envelope with all of your students' names and teachers listed. The class with the highest membership participation by October 29<sup>th</sup> will earn a celebration party. Thank you again for supporting the PTA.

Melanie Suddreth  
Membership Coordinator

## Watkins Skate Night

When: Sunday, October 10

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

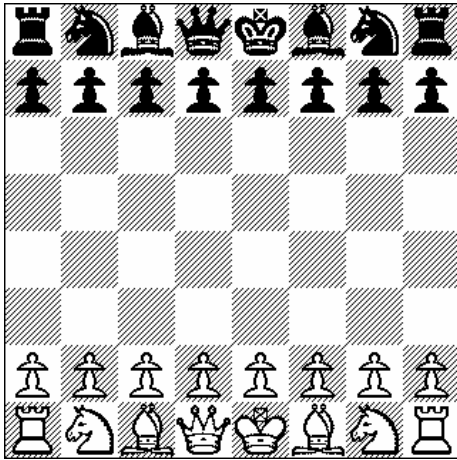
Time: 6:00 - 8:00  
(Doors open at 5:30)

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](mailto:paris972@msn.com).





## Chess Club

Chess Club will meet the first Friday morning of each month starting October 1, 2010. The cost is \$2 (we provide a muffin and juice) and it meets in the cafeteria at 8:15 - 9:10am. Children from all grades and of all skill levels are welcome! See the Lantern for details and the registration form. Contact Becky Rose ([rdrvet@verizon.net](mailto:rdrvet@verizon.net)) or Anne Counoupas ([counoupas@gmail.com](mailto:counoupas@gmail.com)) with any questions.

## nList is now available at J.B Watkins!!!

This year we are introducing nListHelp to J.B Watkins. [www.nListHelp.com](http://www.nListHelp.com) is a simple and secure online group organization tool. That will allow us to post bulletins, create nLists, and keep a shared calendar quickly and easily.

Teachers, committees and Room Mom's can nListHelp to coordinate volunteers for classrooms and school events. We can use nLists to create to-do list, RSVP list, sign-up list, and availability lists. We will also be able to post bulletins, updates or comments within our nlist groups. We hope this will go a long way to reduce our paper usage and keep everyone informed.

Room Parents will be able to send out bulletins to the whole class. They will be able to keep a classroom calendar of events and there is also a Student Directory that each parent can enter their children. Making your families information available is optional...so please still accept your invite to your classroom and committees so that we can keep still keep everyone informed. Parents should be receiving email or paper invites to their classroom sites soon.

### PARENTS:

Every email address is a unique user in the nListHelp system. This means that you will only be able to see information from the sites that you have been invited to.

When you are invited to an nListHelp site by your classroom or a committee, you will receive an email from **donotreply@nListHelp.com**. Parents must click on the link in this validation email to be taken to the nListHelp validation screen. Completing the validation screen joins the user to the invited site. This will need to be done for each site that you are invited to e.g if you are invited to the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade graduation site and your classroom site, you will need to validate both.

The first email from donotreply@nListHelp.com might get blocked by spam filters. Therefore, please check for email from donotreply@nListHelp.com and accept donotreply@nListHelp.com as a valid email address.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at [JBWMINERS@gmail.com](mailto:JBWMINERS@gmail.com). Thank you again for your continued support!

Chantel Conway,  
Volunteer Coordinator  
JB Watkins PTA

## Green Team News

The *Green Team* is back in full force again 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 November 14 at 2pm. 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.

We are also collecting in our school lobby all year:

- ◆ glue sticks/bottles
- ◆ broken crayons
- ◆ bottle caps
- ◆ rechargeable batteries ink toner & printer cartridges

Wednesday, October 6th is ***International Walk to School Day*** and Watkins will be participating again this year. 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](mailto:greenecatharine@gmail.com).



## Sally Foster

Support your child's school! The Sally Foster/ Cookie Dough drive is here! We need your help in raising funds for the school year. The PTA uses the money to support and pay for programs throughout the school year. As an example last year the PTA bought Computer on Wheels (\$1800 each), Math Kits for grades 3 & 4 (\$250 each), donated funds for the Rock Wall in honor of Joe Armstead, and helped pay for many more teacher "wish list". This fundraiser determines what activities we can provide for the school year; such as, Pumpkin Lighting, WEP, BINGO nights, Student Directories, The Wiggle Dance, Science and Engineering Fair, The Talent Show, Family Fun Run, and the Carnival. We need your support! HURRY!! All funds are due by October 4th. Any child who sells \$25 will receive a pass to Laser Quest!

Thanks,

Celia Neff and Annette Bashensky  
The Ways and Means Committee

## 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](mailto:jbwlunchbuddies@yahoo.com) or at the number listed below.

Thanks again for all of your support!

Jennifer Siegel  
423-6641

## Pumpkin Lighting & Book Fair

The Annual J. B. Watkins Pumpkin Lighting is scheduled for Friday, October 29th from 5:30-8:30pm and the Book Fair is from 6-8 pm.

This year, some of the you can:



- ◆ Eat yourself sill on tacos, hot dogs, pizza, cotton candy and popcorn!
- ◆ See all the class carved pumpkins lit up and on display at the front of the school!
- ◆ Bid on and possibly WIN your favorite class pumpkin through the silent auction!
- ◆ Vote for your favorite pumpkin in the Best Pumpkin Contest!
- ◆ Head to the "Great Pumpkin Hall" for games, tattoos, face painting and other fun!
- ◆ Participate in a Costume Parade and Scavenger Hunt!
- ◆ Take a walk on the "Sweet Treat Walk" and win a yummy treat!

So mark your calendars now so you won't miss out on the fun!!!

Barbara Cohen, Maggi Lewis and Annette Bashensky  
The Pumpkin Lighting Committee

## The Watkins ‘Dash in Disguise’

# 5K & 1 Mile Race

**DATE:** Saturday, October 30, 2010

**ATTENTION:** All participants are allowed to come dressed in their favorite costume!!



### Schedule of Events

Check-In: 8:00am

5K Starts: 8:30am

1 Mile Starts: 9:15am



**COURSE:** All races will start and finish at the school track. The 5K and 1 Mile are partly off-road courses with a combination of flat and hilly terrain. **ABSOLUTELY NO PETS!**

All participants registered by October 22 will receive a t-shirt!!

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)

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

Submit items to Coalminer Editor

Beth Marshall

Email: [bmarshall@mcvh-vcu.edu](mailto:bmarshall@mcvh-vcu.edu)



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

Chick-fil-A — Tuesday, October 26 from 5:30-8:00 p.m.

McDonald's — Thursday, October 14 from 5-8 p.m.

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