



The Coalminer

**J.B. Watkins PTA
Newsletter**

October 1, 2011

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2011-2012 PTA Board Members

President:	Niki Mason vtalum97@gmail.com
VP:	Stephanie Gonzalez stephgonz@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	Colleen Kopidis cnkopidis@mac.com
Secretary:	Dawn Owen dawn.owen@hotmail.com

President's Message

Dear J.B. Watkins Parents,

I hope that you and your children have had a fun and successful first month of school. I am Niki Mason, mom to a 3rd grader and Kindergartener here at Watkins, and I'm excited to be your PTA President. This year, the PTA Vice President is Stephanie Gonzalez, the Treasurer is Colleen Kopidis, and the Secretary is Dawn Owen. We are blessed to have an amazing group of parent volunteers who make up our PTA here at Watkins and those parents work very hard to provide you with many exciting programs and events throughout the school year.

Not only does the PTA provide fun programs and events for our children, but the PTA provides money to our school to help fulfill school requests and needs. At the June 2011 PTA meeting, the board voted to donate \$4,000 to Watkins to help buy teacher and school "wish list items". Money raised this year through the various PTA fundraisers will also be donated to Watkins to purchase items that benefit all of our Watkins children both this year and in the future.

Be sure to stay informed through not only the school newsletter, The Lantern, but also by frequenting our Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/JB-Watkins-Elementary-PTA/119486686754>) and PTA website (<http://www.jbwatkinspta.com/>). Both will provide you with up-to-date information concerning what is going on at Watkins and within the PTA. October is full of exciting PTA events so be sure to [View the J.B. Watkins PTA calendar](#) on our website so you don't miss any activities including Candela's night, WEP, Chess Club, the Reflections Art Program, Monkey Joe's night, the PTA meeting, Chick-fil-A night or the Pumpkin Lighting! I encourage you to print the PTA calendar each month and add it to your child's artwork on the refrigerator.

If you are a current PTA member, I encourage you to vote on the 2012 Virginia PTA Proposed Legislative Program (PLP). Your ballot will come home with your PTA membership card and details of the PLP can be found on the PTA website. Please let your voice be heard by completing a ballot and turning it in to your child's teacher no later than October 19.

I want to thank all of our PTA Committee Chairs and parent volunteers. It is only with your help that we are able to provide so many exciting PTA programs and events to our children at Watkins.

Sincerely,

Niki Mason
J.B. Watkins Elementary PTA President, 2011-2013

Cherrydale Fundraiser

It's that time of year again! By now you have seen the Cherrydale Fundraiser package that your children brought home in Early September. Please take a look at the catalog, we have expanded our fundraising sale to include lots of new items this year! So, what's different this year and why should you encourage your child to participate?

- JB Watkins keeps **50%** of all sales
- Online ordering is available for friends and family who don't live in the area
- Lots of new items in the catalog this year - many under \$10
- All money raised will go to benefit J.B. Watkins, teachers, students and exciting school programs!

If you prefer to simply write a check directly to the PTA vs. participating in the fundraiser, please feel free to do so - just make your check out to J.B. Watkins PTA and return it in the fundraising envelope provided.

The fundraiser ends soon - packets are due back to teachers no later than **October 10!** We appreciate all your help!

Lisa Rossi - Ways & Means Committee

Adopt-A-Spot Cleanup / Pansy Day

Adopt-A-Spot Cleanup and Pansy Day is coming!

Friday, October 14 is Pansy Donation Day. We are asking for parents to donate a pansy or flower bulbs to help add some beautiful color to the front of our school. Any color and any size pansy or flower bulbs are welcome. Please have your child bring the pansy or bulbs to school the morning of October 14. Volunteers will be at the bus loop about 9:00 a.m. to collect the flowers from the children as they walk in to school.

Then please join us on **Sunday, October 16, at 2 p.m.** to help clean up our school grounds and plant the colorful pansies and bulbs. We will meet outside Watkins (near the parking lot on the side of the gym) and will walk around the school and pick up trash and recyclables. Children and adults are welcome to help. Garbage bags will be provided. After the **Adopt-A-Spot Cleanup**, pansy and bulb planting will start in the front of Watkins. Please bring gardening gloves and gardening spades to help plant the flowers.

Thank you for helping keep our school grounds clean and adding some beauty to the front of our school.

*Angela Castillo, Grounds Chair
Catharine Anderson, Green Team*

Important Reminders

Please remember that school starts a bit earlier this year at **9:15 a.m.**

Parents should not drop off children before 9:05 a.m.

Also, there will be nine (9) Early Release Wednesdays this year (pick up is at 12:45 p.m.):

September 28, October 26, November 30, January 25, February 29, March 28, April 25, and May 28

To download the 2011-2012 school calendar, go to:

<http://mychesterfieldschools.com/wp-content/uploads/calendar/files/2011-2012-calendar.pdf>



Pumpkin Lighting Festival & Book Fair

The annual **J.B. Watkins Pumpkin Lighting Festival** is scheduled for:

Friday, October 28, from 6:00 -8:30 p.m.
Book Fair from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Join us for Food, Fun, Books and Treats:



- ◆ A change in this year's event is that **all games and activities will be FREE**. There is still a charge for food and book fair purchases.
- ◆ See all the class carved pumpkins 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 more!
- ◆ Participate in a Costume Parade!
- ◆ Take a walk on the "Sweet Treat Walk" and win a YUMMY Treat!

Barbara Cohen, Annette Bashensky & Maggi Lewis - Pumpkin Lighting Festival Committee

Chess Club

Chess Club starts Friday, October 7, 2011 at 8:15-9:10 a.m. in the Cafeteria. We meet every Friday of every month for a quick breakfast followed by chess time. This is a great opportunity for your child to get involved at J.B. Watkins and meet new friends!

All ages and skill levels are welcome to join.

Dates: October 7, November 4, December 9, January 6, February 3, March 2, March 30, May 4 & June 1

Time: 8:15 - 9:10 a.m.

Location: School Cafeteria

Fee: \$2 per month

Registration forms are available at:

<http://jbwatkinspta.com/Files/Doc/Chess%20Club%20Form.pdf>

Please contact Becky Rose at rdrvet@verizon.net or

Anne Counoupas at Counoupas@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Becky Rose & Anne Counoupas - Chess Club Committee



Box Tops Challenge

This year we are trying to boost our involvement in the Box Tops for Education program. We are challenging our students to bring in as many box tops as possible. The class with the largest amount collected will receive a classroom party at the end of the year. Please help our students by carefully clipping the box tops from your food item packages.



We receive \$0.10 for each box top collected. Last year Watkins received **\$1,000** from this program. Let's see if we can double that this year! Please ask your family and friends to save them for our students too. Every little bit helps.

Kris Perko, Box Tops Committee

Green Team News

The Green Team is back this year at J.B. Watkins and ready to help students and their parents make a positive impact on the environment. We have many activities planned 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 Cleanup** to be held on **Sunday, October 16, at 2:00 p.m.**, with planting of all the pansies and flower bulbs to follow immediately after. Please join us to get outside and help beautify our school.

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. It's a very easy way to volunteer and help raise money for our school. Be on the lookout for a nList sign-up soon!

Wednesday, October 5 is International Walk to School Day and Watkins will again be participating. Last year, over 100 students participated -- let's get out there and beat our own record!

This annual walking event promotes:

- ◆ Physical activity
- ◆ Awareness of a walkable community
- ◆ Concern for the environment
- ◆ Less traffic congestion and speed near schools
- ◆ Taking back neighborhoods for people on foot
- ◆ Sharing time together for parents and children



What do you have to do to participate? 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 walkers must have parental supervision with a maximum of six to one child to adult ratio. That day is only our "kickoff" day -- every Wednesday will be a "Walking Wednesday" so grab your tennis shoes and join us. If you would like to be a "walking leader" or contact person for your neighborhood, please email me.

If you are interested in being on the Green Team Committee or helping with any Green Team activities this year, or have any questions, please email me at greencatharine@gmail.com.

Let's have a great "GREEN" year!

Catharine Anderson, Green Team

Watkins "Dash in Disguise"

Start training now for the...

Dash in Disguise 5K and 1 Mile Run/Walk!

Date:

Saturday, October 29

Schedule of Events:

5K Race Begins: 7:45 a.m.

1 Mile Race Begins: 8:30 a.m.

Cost:

\$10 - 5K Race

\$ 8 - 1 Mile Race

Be sure to get there early to register.

Both runs will start and end at the school track.

All participants are encouraged to dress up in their favorite Halloween costumes.

Registration forms will be coming home soon.

For more information, contact Ginger Grizzard at

Grizzard5899@verizon.net or Mr. Gates at John-Paul_Gates@ccpsnet.net



PTA Membership

The PTA Membership Drive is in full swing and our goal is 100% participation. We're well on our way to meeting our goal. Help support the many wonderful things the PTA does for our school and join today. Membership is only \$5.

The class with the highest membership by October 28, 2011 wins a pizza party!

Anne Counoupas & Julia Trebour, Membership Committee

SAVE THE DATE!

J.B. Watkins Fall 2011 Blood Drive

Thursday, November 3, 2011

3 – 7 p.m. in the Cafeteria

We invite family members and friends 16 years of age and older to think about making a heroic blood donation which can save up to three lives.

Contact Deb Dudley at dadjwd@comcast.net or 464-2310 to make an appointment.

Students who recruit donors will earn a voucher for ice cream!

Reflections Program

The Reflections Program provides opportunities for students to express themselves and be recognized for their efforts in the arts.

The theme for the 2011-2012 school year is: "**Diversity means...**". Students may submit entries in the following categories:

- ◆ visual arts
- ◆ literature
- ◆ music composition
- ◆ photography
- ◆ dance choreography
- ◆ film production

Please encourage your student to participate in this wonderful program. Entries will be collected from **9:00-10:00 a.m. on October 28 in the Cafeteria.**

Please contact Stephanie Kraft at stephkraft@verizon.net or Michelle Quiram at 306-2581 for more information.



Michelle Quiram & Stephanie Kraft, Reflections Committee

Staff Appreciation

The Staff Appreciation Committee has several luncheons planned throughout the year, with each luncheon being hosted by a different grade. Below is the list of dates:

Date	Activity	Grade
October 19, 2011	Salad Luncheon	5th
November 16, 2011	Sub Luncheon	4th
January 18, 2012	Soup Luncheon	3rd
March 14, 2012	Potato Bar	2nd
April 30-May 4, 2012	Staff Appreciation Week	1st Grade lunch-Monday Ice Cream Sundaes-Friday Fun activities & raffles rest of week
June 13, 2012	End of Year Breakfast	Kindergarten

Room parents will be getting more information about all these events shortly, and will be asking parents for donations.

Shelley Neofotistos, Catharine Anderson, Melissa Weeks & Julie Miller - Staff Appreciation Committee

Jog/Walk Club

Get your running or walking shoes because it is that time of year again!

The Jog/Walk Club began on Monday, September 19 and will continue for six weeks ending on Friday, October 28. This "club" is open to all students at Watkins. We will meet every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning from 8:40-9:00 a.m. at the school track.

This year we will have "Wild Wednesdays" with a different theme each week!

We will have a recognition breakfast at the conclusion of the Spring season. All students with 5 or more miles will receive a medal. There will be a special award for the top boy and girl for each grade level.

For more information contact Mr. Gates at John-Paul_Gates@ccpsnet.net or Ginger Grizzard at Grizzard5899@verizon.net.



Ginger Grizzard, Health & Safety Committee

Student Directory

The 2011-2012 Watkins Student Directory will be distributed to all Watkins families. If you own a local business, or work at one, and want to reach a lot of people in our community, consider advertising in the student directory. Ads are fairly inexpensive and in residents' hands for almost a full year until the next edition is printed.

A half page ad is \$35 (5 1/2" x 4 1/4") and a full page ad is \$50 (5 1/2" x 8 1/2"). Ads must be in Word format, or able to be inserted to a Word document. Please contact Betty Jo Fulghum if you are interested at 379-1274 or jofulghum@comcast.net. Thank you for your support.

Betty Jo Fulghum, Student Directory Committee

Watkins Friends



The Watkins Friends PTA committee would like to thank all the families that donated to our school supply and denim drives. We collected over 100 pairs of jeans and your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Mark your calendars for the next Watkins Friends community outreach collection beginning November 14. We will be having a holiday toy drive and will be asking for new, unwrapped toys appropriate for boys and girls ages 5 to 12. More details to follow soon. For questions, please contact one of the guidance counselors or email the committee chairs Dana Gates at danaegates@gmail.com or Melanie Suddreth at msudds@verizon.net.

Melanie Suddreth & Dana Gates, Watkins Friends Committee

Cub Scouts



Calling all boys interested in Cub Scouts! Cub Scout Pack 1800 is still accepting boys and creating dens for most elementary school-aged boys (sorry, sign ups are for 1st graders and older only, kindergarteners can sign up at the end of this school year). If your son is interested in learning about his community, scouting, pinewood derby cars, camping, knot tying, safety and a myriad of other FUN stuff that scouts do, consider Cub Scouts as a great activity for him.

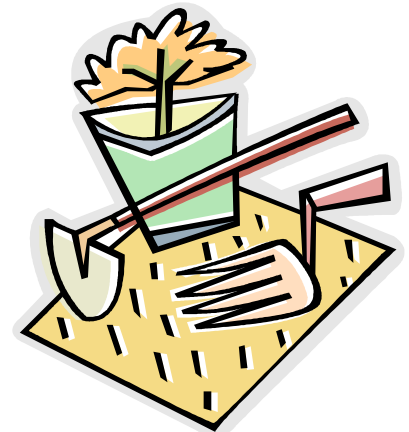
Contact Mat Fulghum at 627-3620, matfulghum@comcast.net or Ray Shashaty at 640-8859, rnssons@msn.com for more information.

JBW Gardeners

Calling all gardeners or anyone interested in gardening and helping!

This year we are looking for garden waterers, planters, weed controllers and student chaperones. Enjoy planting and maintaining our beautiful gardens while helping our students learn more about gardening.

Contact June Millacci at millaccijw@comcast.net



Placing Ads in The Coalminer

Attention all business owners, service providers & employees of local businesses!

If you're looking for a great way to advertise, place an ad in The Coalminer...

Prices are very reasonable, and your ad will reach hundreds of people.

Pricing:

\$10 - Business Card Size

\$15 - Quarter Page

\$25 - Half Page

\$40 - Full Page

Please mention to all your friends and family as well - any local business is welcome to advertise.

For more info or if interested, please contact the Coalminer Editor, Dawn Owen, at dawn.owen@hotmail.com.



Mark your Calendars!!

Back by Popular Demand....**Candela's Pizza Nights!**

Monday, October 3, from 5:00-9:00 p.m.

Location: 14235 Midlothian Turnpike

Also on: December 5, February 6, March 5, April 2 & May 7

And of course our wildly popular....**Chick-fil-A Nights!**

Tuesday, October 25, from 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Also on: November 22, January 24, February 28, March 27, April 24 & May 22

Skip a night of cooking while supporting the J.B. Watkins PTA!

*****Make sure to mention you're with J.B.Watkins when placing your order****

Monkey Joe's Nights!!

Family Fun!

Climb...Jump...Slide

What better way to spend a Friday night!

Our 1st Monkey Joe's Night is:

Friday, October 7, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Other Monkey Joe's Nights:

December 9, February 24 & April 6

Upcoming PTA Meetings

Tuesday, October 11

Tuesday, November 15

**Meetings are at 7:00 p.m. in
the School Library**

**ALL MEETINGS OPEN TO
ALL PARENTS!**

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

Submit items to Coalminer Editor

Dawn Owen at dawn.owen@hotmail.com

Why choose Primrose®?

Just ask a mom.

“My children are learning things I never imagined they could learn at this point in their lives. My preschooler can write his name and recite his alphabet and numbers. I also have a 15-month old who is learning his shapes and colors. It's just amazing how much Primrose is teaching my children.”

— Jude & Ethan's Mom, Primrose Parent

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