



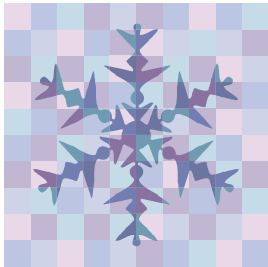
The Newsletter
of the
J.B. Watkins P.T.A.

Editor: **Angela Castillo**

Inside this issue:

Watkins Friends	2
Box Tops	2
Jog/Walk	3
Staff Appreciation	3
Artsonia	4
Sally Foster	4
Colaminer Dads	5
Reflections	6

Happy Holidays!



**Your
2008-2009 PTA Board**

President - Stephanie Gonzalez
stephgonz@hotmail.com 379-3314

Vice President - Kristen Holland
hollandkma@yahoo.com 794-7256

Treasurer - Marian Kuhn
Mariankuhn@verizon.net 897-4052

Secretary - Robin Sheldon
ct_sheldon@yahoo.com 794-4305

Smiling faces and helpful hands have made all of these events run smoothly. Thank you to all of the volunteers who have helped at events and donated items. Your support is much appreciated and we ask for your continued support as we strive to do all we can do for our school.

Stephanie Gonzalez
PTA President, J.B. Watkins

Upcoming PTA meetings:

(No meeting in December)

Tuesday, January 13, 2009
Tuesday, February 10, 2009

7 p.m., J. B. Watkins Library

The Coalminer

December 2008

President's Message

Dear J. B. Watkins Parents,

WOW! That's right. WOW! again. This has been an amazing several of months. Thanks to all of you who supported the Sally Foster fundraiser, we met our goal of \$10,000 for our school. WE are very proud! Sally Foster nationally has had a decrease in sales and Watkins had an increase in sales from last year!! And again, you have come through and supported our school through enjoying McDonald's night and Chick-fil-A night. But more importantly, we are now able to support all of the wonderful events and programs that have been planned for this school year.

PTA dollars and volunteers have already been hard at work for Watkins! Pumpkin lighting was a great night. Many parents and students viewed the very creative pumpkin display, joined their friends in a pizza dinner and then visited the book fair. In addition, WEP has been so much fun for the kids and I have heard wonderful comments and seen lots of smiling faces on the children and parents participating. Look for more WEP in the late winter! The PTA also held our first blood drive of the year. We had 27 units donated and had 35 people come out to donate to support our community through blood donation. Watkins has also supported our community by collecting school supplies for those in need, by recycling at our school, by cleaning up the school via adopt-a-spot and also by weeding, raking and planting pansies in the front of our school. New this year were the goodies provided to the voters on November 4th. The voters were very thankful and complimentary of our PTA and our school. Other activities and events such as Jog/walk, chess club and our Kenyan Visit, McDonald's night and Chick fil A night have seen great response as well.

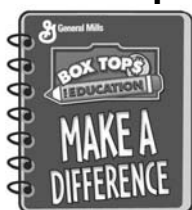
Watkins Friends

The next Watkins Friends project is a mitten tree for Reams Elementary. Starting December 1st, we will be collecting mittens to help other children this winter. If you would like to donate, please send mittens in to school. Thank you for your support.



Tina Pace

Box Tops



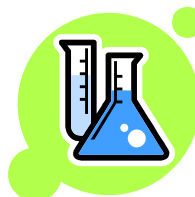
The first Box Tops for Education submission will bring Watkins **\$452.50!** Thank you to everyone that sent in Box Tops. Please continue to send the Box Tops in throughout the year. The next mailing will be in February. Check out Boxtops4education.com for more information, recipes and coupons from participating products.

Dianne White

Meet your PTA Board: Vice President Kristen Holland

JB. Watkins PTA Vice President Kristen Holland comes from a family of 7 children and grew up in the Queensmill subdivision. She went to J.B. Watkins, Midlothian Middle School, and Midlothian High School. Kristen received a BA in Chemistry and Masters of Teaching from UVa. She taught Chemistry in Chesterfield County for 5 years at LC Bird High School and one year at Midlothian High School. For the past 13 years she has been a private tutor to students in math, chemistry, physics and SAT prep and she currently tutors about 9 hours a week.

Kristen has been married to Lawrence for 11 years, and they have three children: Elizabeth, a 2nd grader in Mrs. Fazar's class, Kaylee, a kindergartener in Mrs. Sinnott's class, and Emmitt, a 3-year-old. With the PTA, Kristen started volunteering as the chair of the staff appreciation committee and is now in her second year as the Vice President of the PTA. She has also been a room mother for the past three years. Kristen loves to volunteer in the classroom, and especially loves to help with science lessons.



JOG/WALK CLUB REACHES 1,244 MILES!

Over 100 participants in Jog/Walk Club walked a total of 1,244 miles this fall. One could walk from J.B. Watkins to Texas with that amount of mileage! Other special milestones were made by the following students who have made the 100 mile mark, they include: Christina Dorsey, Madison Fournet, Mac Whitten and Andrew Steenkamer.

We enjoyed special treats on our walks and Mother Nature cooperated with good weather for most of the fall. We celebrated our season with a recognition breakfast on November 12th where each participant was awarded a key chain, certificate and a free kids meal generously donated by Chick-Fil-A.

Thanks to all those parents who got up early, got the kids out the door and helped us out! Special thanks to Bill Phillips for his constant support and encouragement. Look forward to seeing you this spring.

Respectfully,
Juliane Steenkamer and Christen Whitten



Staff Appreciation Committee

Many, many thanks to all the parents who helped support our 5th Grade Fruit & Salad Luncheon and the 4th Grade Conference Day Meal! A special thank you to Julie Fletcher and Dawn Fuller for their help on the 4th Grade luncheon. The teachers and staff enjoyed all the delicious food. In addition, they appreciated the fall candy donated for the last week of October and the tasty pies during November.

We will continue showing our appreciation to our Watkins staff in January when the 3rd grade hosts a Soup Luncheon on Wednesday, January 14.

In addition to the luncheons, the committee will continue to sponsor other treats and raffles throughout the year. If you would like to donate items to support these events – please let us know: paris972@msn.com.

These special events would not be possible without the help and support of all the wonderful parents!

Staff Appreciation Committee – Catharine Anderson, Dona LaChance, Laura Povedano and Shelley Neofotistos



Artsonia has made a big splash at J.B. Watkins!

We are thrilled with all of the positive response the students have received. If you have not had a chance to check Artsonia out, go to WWW.Artsonia.com and type in JB Watkins zip code, 23114. More artwork is being uploaded so check back often!

Artsonia is a great place for holiday shopping. Your child's artwork can be placed on a variety of items from cards to ornaments to T-shirts. Check out the gift shop on Artsonia.com. JB Watkins earns 15% on all of your purchases. All orders are shipped directly to you and arrive in 7 to 10 business days from when you place your order. All transactions are done online through Artsonia.

If you have any problems or need your child's security key please contact us. Thank you for your continued support!

Sarah Matthews sarah_matthews@ccpsnet.net or 378-2530

Wanji Lee wanji_lee@ccpsnet.net or 378-2530

Brenda Hayes qbren2u@comcast.net or 794-0963



Sally Foster

Sally Foster orders have arrived and the count has been tabulated! We have raised over **\$10,000** for our classrooms! This was an increase from last year; we were the only area school to increase our profit.

I'd like to give a very big thank you to all who participated in our fundraiser. There were many donations, too, so thank you for those!

If anyone would like to place online orders, we are able to place orders and still make profit for our school. Just go to sallyfoster.com and input your student's name and our school ID, 289845.



Thanks for making this year's fundraiser so great!!

Liz Allums

PTA Ways and Means Chairman

McDonald's Night and Chick-Fil-A Night

Thanks to all for the great attendance at our first two McDonald's nights and our first Chick-Fil-A night. If you can help out at one of the next nights, please contact Sandy at sandy.eberhard@verizon.net

McDonald's nights (Village of Midlothian location) 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.:

Thursday, December 11

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Chick-Fil-A nights (location behind Chesterfield Town Center) 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.:

Thursday, January 29, 2009

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Coalminer's Dig Dads

Calling All Dads & Male Role Models - The biggest reward as dads and male role models is sharing fun with our little ones. During these times it is also important to instill positive character traits in our children, as they move forward in life and take the next steps in becoming the leaders of tomorrow.

One way to make a difference in our children's lives is to stay involved in theirs. The J.B. Watkins PTA is planning an event for spring 2009, which calls upon dads and male role models of all, and suggestions or involvement are greatly appreciated.



Some suggestions are:

- a Weekday Board Game Breakfast (attend breakfast in the cafeteria with your children, and play a board game before school).
- a Saturday Car Wash (Summer is right around the corner).
- a Weekend Soap Box Derby Downhill Race (create a soap box derby car out of Dads un-used garage scraps, fit your child with the appropriate safety-gear, and take it to the hill).

If you have an idea for this Spring, please email it to me at: deryckkrafft@yahoo.com

As a reminder, you can join the PTA at anytime, and you are encouraged to attend the next PTA meeting, so Dads and Male Role Models can make this event one that our kids will remember.

Sincerely,
Deryck J. Krafft
PTA Member J.B. Watkins ES & a Dad

Pumpkin Lighting was a Spooktakular success!

Food and raffle ticket sales resulted in a **\$700** profit to the PTA. Congratulations to the following students who won a prize in the raffle: Damiyen Steed, Maclane Self, Dana Legere and Claire Anderson. This event would not be possible without the many Moms and Dads who teamed up with students to carve all of the festive pumpkins and the 40 plus volunteers who graciously worked a shift that night. A BIG THANK YOU from the PTA to everyone who had a part in this annual family event!



The PTA would like to thank Thomas and Michael Olivero's family for the raffle prize of (4) tickets to the Trans-Siberian Orchestra at Pumpkin Lighting. Thomas A.J. Olivero, Jr., DDS, PLC provided the donation.

Reflections 2008/2009 Results

This year's theme "WOW!" was very exciting for our students. The students were very creative with their entries and displayed their talents through literature, dance, film, photography, visual arts and musical composition. Every entry was special and it was evident that much time was taken to prepare these pieces of work. I would like to thank all of the students for their participation and the teachers and parents for their support in Arts in Education.

There are several people that need to be recognized for their assistance with this program.

Robin Sheldon, Robin was the chair for last year's Reflections and has assisted with answering many questions, helping to make signs and posters, organizing the reception and many other items. Thanks so much for all of your help!!!

Paula Millar, Paula assisted with copying, obtaining our wonderful judges and coordinating the pick-ups and drop-offs of the entries.

Patti Miller, Patti also assisted with obtaining our wonderful judges and coordinating the pick-ups and drop-offs of the entries.

Thanks to all of our outstanding judges: **Marie O'Kleasky**, who judged photography, **Ann Deaver** who judged the Literature entries, **Kathy and Alison Morgan** the judges of the visual art entries, **Joe Ladnier** our film production judge, **Michelle Higby** the music composition judge and **Maria Binns Cannady** our dance choreographer judge.

Thanks to our Theme Search judges: **Ms. Sarah Matthews** the art teacher and **Mr. Charles Rhode** the music teacher here at JB Watkins.

A big thank you to those who helped with collecting the entries, displaying the entries, and the Hospitality Committee for providing us with wonderful refreshments for the reception.

Overall Winners

There were eight overall winning entries sent to the next level of judging on November 13th. Congratulations to all of our winners within each grade level and our overall winners. The overall winners were as follows:

Literature

Overall Primary Division Winner

Katie Potocko ... The Kite

Overall Intermediate Division Winner

Danielle Burch . . . That Shooting Star I Saw Last Night

Visual Arts

Overall Primary Division Winner

Lauren Rooney . . . The Colors of Life in the Woods

Overall Intermediate Division Winner

Mackenzie Miller . . . The Dance of the Sunburst!

Music

Overall Intermediate Division Winner

Molly Fletcher . . . Hop Around

Film

Overall Intermediate Division Winner

Hannah Epps . . . Watkins is so WOW!

Photography

Overall Primary Division Winner

Courtney Gallagher . . . Where is My Pot?

Dance

Overall Intermediate Division Winner

Kate Curran . . . Kate's Dance

Reflections Theme Search for 2010/2011

The winners of the Reflections Theme Search were:

Lee Elkins, Grade 2 "Learning Opens the Mind"

Olivia Gonzalez, Grade 4 "Go For It"

Zachary Plant, Grade 2 "Something Different"

Again, Congratulations to All!!!

Sharon Garcia



