



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

Editor: Angela Castillo

The Coalminer

March 2009

President's Message

Dear J. B. Watkins Parents,

As most of you are well aware, our Watkins community is being challenged with pending budget cuts that will affect each of us in some way. As a PTA, we are preparing to support and assist our teachers, staff, and students at Watkins. Your support is needed in any way you are able. Contact a committee chair as listed on the PTA website if you are able to volunteer.

As we prepare for the 09-10 school year, nominations for the executive board positions of the PTA are now being accepted. The duties of the President include preparing for and leading the meetings, communicating with Dr. Scott and Christa Dillon about school and PTA issues, working with the Treasurer and other board members to prepare a budget to be submitted for approval by the general population of the PTA, assigning committee chairmen and general support of the PTA workings. The Vice-President's duties include booking special programs for the students, usually one in the fall and one in the spring, and to support the President as needed. The Treasurer should have a basic knowledge of accounting, credits and debits, be organized and detail oriented. The Secretary is responsible for taking minutes at the meetings and submitting completed minutes for approval via the website prior to the next meeting. The secretary should be able to attend the PTA meetings on a regular basis.

Nominations can be submitted via email to stephgonz@hotmail.com or deposited in the nominations box located in the office.

Please feel free to contact me stephgonz@hotmail.com if you have any other questions about the duties of the Executive Board. The executive board is not a full time job. I and many of the executive board members in the past work outside of the home either full time or part time but we all share in common the willingness to serve our school and be an integral part of the education of our children.

Stephanie Gonzalez
PTA President, J.B. Watkins

Upcoming PTA meetings:

Tuesday, March 10
Tuesday, April 14
Tuesday, May 12

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

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Happy Spring!

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

Attention Rising 6th Grade Midlothian Middle School Parents

The Midlothian Middle School PTA is currently looking for volunteers to fill both officer and committee chairperson positions for the 2009-2010 school year. If you are interested in serving in a leadership or support capacity, or know someone who might, please contact Annetta Riekkel (378-1684, triekkel@comcast.net) or Julie Miller (897-4441, millersrusva@yahoo.com).



This is a great way to support your child as he or she transitions to middle school, so please consider volunteering .

Go Midlo Mustangs

Inhalant Abuse Prevention Workshop

On Tuesday, March 24th at 7 p.m. at Bettie Weaver Elementary School, the BWE PTA will be hosting an Inhalant Abuse Prevention workshop for Weaver, Robious, Greenfield and Watkins Elementary parents and their children. Parents will meet in the cafeteria where SAFE (Substance Abuse Free Environment, Inc.) will teach parents:

- What inhalants are
- How they are used
- The damage they can do
- Signs of use
- How to talk to your kids about them

Children can attend an age appropriate (K-2 and 3-5) SAFE run workshop introducing them to basic information about the brain and keeping your body pollution free.

Meet your PTA Board: Treasurer Marian Kuhn

J.B. Watkins PTA Treasurer Marian Kuhn was born in a small town in West, yes West, Virginia. She, her husband Scott and their two children, Ethan (a senior at Midlo High) and Alyssa (a JB Watkins 4th grader) came to Virginia by way of Florida and Idaho. They have been living in The Grove in Midlothian for almost eight years.

While in Florida, Marian received her Human Resources Management degree from the University of Central Florida. She is currently a Co-Manager with Bath and Body Works and an Independent Consultant with Close To My Heart, a scrapbooking and stamping company. During her non-working hours, she enjoys spending time with family and scrapbooking.

Marian has been active in the JB Watkins PTA for 5 years. She has spent time on several committees, including Membership and Staff Appreciation. She was also responsible for the Student Directory one year and was editor of The Coalminer for three years! As Treasurer, Marian is responsible for maintaining the PTA Budget using Quicken, writing checks and completing deposits.



Please help— Lost Camera

Please please please help...my digital camera was misplaced or taken the night of the Wiggle (February 6, 2009). If you know anything about this camera please call Hazel Snead @ 400-9431 or e-mail ddsnead@aol.com . It had many precious pictures of my family, especially my brother who just recently passed away. I can replace the camera but not the pictures so if the memory card is just returned no questions will be asked.

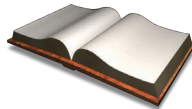


Thank you,
Hazel Snead

A Word from the VP:

Our January visit from nonfiction children's author Ginjer L. Clarke was absolutely fabulous. She read her exciting nonfiction animal books to each grade level. She also talked about being an author, how a book gets made, writing tips and exercises, and fascinating facts about some unusual creatures. Many student purchased books which she autographed for them the day of her visit. She was a delight to listen to and so inspiring for our children!

Kristen Holland



Staff Appreciation Committee

Many thanks to all the parents who helped support our 3rd Grade Soup Luncheon in January! Teachers could be overheard saying this was their favorite day of the year – it was a great success! In addition, all of the Valentines candy donations were much appreciated. A special “thank you” goes to Chick-Fil-A for donating free sandwich coupons to all of the staff.

We will continue showing our appreciation in March when the 2nd grade hosts a Potato Bar and in April with a special Spring Time treat.

Room Parents – please be thinking about Teacher Appreciation Week coming in May – we will need lots of help from you including finding volunteers to help cover the classrooms while we allow our teachers an opportunity to enjoy a longer lunch. More specific details will be coming soon on this...

As always, if you have a good idea or 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



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OPENING FALL 2009



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
& CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Last McDonald's and Chick-Fil-A Nights of the Year

Thanks to all for the great attendance at our McDonald's and Chick-Fil-A nights so far this year. If you can help out at one of the following 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, March 12

Thursday, May 14

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

Thursday, March 24

SAVE THE DATE & GRAB YOUR SKATES

Join us for the 1st Watkins Skate Night at the Skate-A-Way Roller Rink!

WHEN: SUNDAY APRIL 19

TIME: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Doors open at 5:30 p.m.)

WHERE: Skate-A-Way

3330 Speeks Drive (Off of Hull Street – near the Waffle House)

Midlothian VA 23112

674-5070

www.sk8away.com



COST: \$4.00 Admission \$2.00 Roller Skates \$3.00 Roller Blades

TEACHERS/STAFF SKATE FOR FREE!!!

Watch for more details to come soon...

Lunch Help Wanted

The Lunch Buddy Program is in need of volunteers! Helping as a lunch buddy is a great volunteering opportunity if your schedule is not consistent- you can participate once a week, once a month, once a year; whatever works for you. We would also love to have Grandmas and Grandpas help as well. If you 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.



Thanks again for all of your support!

Jennifer Siegel
423-6641

JOG/WALK Club– Spring 2009

**JOG/WALK CLUB IS BACK AND ONCE AGAIN OPEN TO ALL J.B. WATKINS STUDENTS
K-5th GRADE!**

The Jog/Walk Club is gearing up for another successful season and wants YOU to participate! Last Fall, we accumulated enough miles to walk to Dallas, Texas! Come and spend time with your friends and run at the same time. Our club's goal is to promote exercise, encourage self-discipline and to have fun! Students meet in the back parking lot by the gymnasium, warm up and stretch, and then it's off to the track to run or walk for 20 minutes each morning. Miles are calculated and accumulated and awards will be presented at our **Recognition Breakfast on Wednesday, May 20 at 8:15 a.m.**

Registration begins March 9th and the spring season will run from **Monday, March 23 through Friday, May 15th.**

We look forward to seeing you on the track!
Christen Whitten, 3rd-5th grade



son will run from

J.B. WATKINS ELEMENTARY STUDENTS SHARE THEIR ARTWORK WITH THE WORLD!

Midlothian, VA -- Move Over Famous Artists! J.B. Watkins Elementary School artists are taking over the spotlight! Sarah Matthews and Wanji Lee, the school's Art Teachers, and the Watkins PTA have teamed up with Artsonia, www.artsonia.com -- the world's largest online kid's art museum -- to display the students' artwork.

J.B. Watkins Elementary currently ranks #1 in the state and in the top 10 in the nation. The school will continue to submit artwork and encourage the community to participate to hopefully close the year in the top 10 as well.

Anyone can view the school gallery online at: www.artsonia.com/schools/Watkins1. Visitors can browse the artwork in the school gallery by grade level, or by specific exhibits. J.B. Watkins Elementary students join thousands of students from over 100 countries whose artwork is showcased on Artsonia.

This program is a wonderful way to get parents and family members involved in Art Education. It makes students proud to be able to share their work with others around the world. They feel like they are ***International Art Stars***. Students can also practice their computer skills finding the site and typing in positive comments for friends and siblings. They really enjoy reading the comments left by grandparents and other fans. We have over 2100 fan club members and over 1500 comments on the Watkins site!

For safety and privacy, each student's parent must visit the website and review the comments. Parents will be given a ***special password unique to their child*** to allow them to do this. On the Artsonia website, each child is identified only by a ***screen name*** which is usually the child's first name and number (e.g., Sarah22). This ***screen name and special parent code*** are available from the art teachers. (SEE BELOW) There is no way for any website visitor to find out the identity of the student or to directly contact the student. Artsonia strictly follows all US government regulations on protecting children's privacy on the Internet and our policies are compliant with those of most school districts in the US, Canada and W. Europe.

Your child can earn awards on the website for participation in the Artsonia arts program. For instance, any artist that has 5 or more comments about their artwork will receive the "Rave Reviews" trophy. These trophies are proudly displayed next to the child's artwork and in our school's gallery.

All of Artsonia's one million pieces of artwork are viewable online, and any teacher or parent can create an online art gallery for their child or school. Artsonia provides several online features such as fan clubs and personal guest books, as a way for families to encourage the creativity and imaginations of their young artists. In addition, family members can purchase keepsakes imprinted with the child's artwork, with Artsonia donating 15 percent of their annual product revenue back to school help fund PTA projects. So far close to \$1000 has been generated from the Artsonia program.

Please visit the site and SHARE YOUR PRAISE FOR YOUR CHILD'S WORK. Any questions you may have can be directed to Watkins art teachers, 378-2530 or [Sarah Matthews@ccpsnet.net](mailto:Sarah.Matthews@ccpsnet.net), [Wanji Lee@ccpsnet.net](mailto:Wanji.Lee@ccpsnet.net) and Brenda Hayes, Artsonia coordinator, 794-0963 or qbren2u@comcast.net.





Green Team News



As you know, this year at J.B. Watkins Elementary, we have kicked off our "Watkins is Going Green" campaign, the first year of our school in a collective effort to make a positive environmental impact on our community.

So far this year, over **4,000 pounds of recycling** has been diverted from landfills at Watkins through our in-class student-led recycling. Last week, I sat down with Patty Carpenter and shared with her Watkins' wonderful results. She has asked us to come and share these results at the April School Board meeting.

We would like to thank our Watkins Dads, led by Dercyk Krafft, who have been coming to Watkins after work and helping dump our 48-gallon recycling cans. Please email if you can help in this effort.

We currently have a need with the "Drink Pouch Brigade". Volunteers would be responsible for a wonderful program offered by Terracycle, a company that uses empty drink pouches (like Capri Sun) to make handbags and other accessories. It is an awesome way to cut down on waste, and already we have collected over **2,000** empties from Watkins. Of course, the best way to help would be to consider sending your child to school with reusable drink containers to cut down on the number of pouches we use, but helping give a second life to these drink pouches would be wonderful too. If you would be interested in leading this initiative, I would welcome your help.

We will be letting you know about our next Adopt-A-Spot date late March or early April.

If you have an interest in serving this year as a green volunteer, please let us know. There are many things already underway, and plenty more opportunities lining up.

Thank you,
Catharine Anderson
J.B. Watkins Green Team Coordinator
920-4690
greencatharine@gmail.com

2009 Talent Show
 “Watkins Got Talent?”
 Date: **Friday, March 13th**
 Time: **6:00 p.m.**



Please visit:
www.jbwatkinspta.com
 for Important Talent

Contact person: Lori Epps 897-4537
 Or Becky Rogers 378-3350

Upcoming PTA Events

Talent Show	March 13	6:00 p.m.
Science and Engineering Fair	March 26	6:30-8:30 p.m.
Skating Night	April 19	6:00-8:00 p.m.
Carnival	May 30	

The Watkins Carnival is Coming

Mark your calendars now for the J.B. Watkins Carnival on **Saturday, May 30, 2009.**

Games

We will need lots and lots of volunteers to make our carnival a fun-filled, family event. The Carnival will have a silent auction, music, games, food, fun, and more.

If you would like to help with this event, can donate an item to the silent auction, or are a vendor that would like to have a table at the Carnival, please contact Maggi Lewis at 378-9697, or Jml8892@verizon.net.

Food

Fun!