

HBMS Eagle Eye



February 2010

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Visit www.hbmspta.com
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Middle School PTA

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Presidents Corner

I saw a bumper sticker on a HBMS parent's car that read: "Get Involved. The world is run by those who show up." I couldn't think of a more appropriate time than the first of the year to reflect on this truth. Our lives are filled with so many scheduled demands that we tend to trust those we elect to run things as they see fit. If you fall into this category, I encourage you to rethink. The Georgia budget is not expected to recover until 2014 and as we start a new legislative session downtown, many compromises will need to be made with education on the "to cut" list (education is over 50% of the entire budget). Trickle down cuts will be felt at the county level, as well. Get up to speed and make your thoughts known to your legislators and Fulton County Board members! The Georgia PTA has a wonderful email update that you can read to get the highlights of what is important to that organization. Of course, there is a lot more going on, but it's a place to start. We have tried to post additional resources on the HBMS PTA website (www.HBMSPTA.com).

At our school, the PTA is beginning to look for volunteers to head up various PTA Board and Committees positions for next year. The PTA website has an updated list of open positions and descriptions for each category. If you have an interest, but don't see it listed, please let me know! Please consider volunteering and get involved!

Best wishes,
Karen LeCates

Volunteer Opportunities

2010-11 Directory Committee: Do you have experience with Microsoft Access and Microsoft Publisher? If so, then we need your help! We are looking for a volunteer to lead our directory publishing effort next year. If you are interested or want to find out more information, please contact Angie Morris at bamorris1@yahoo.com or 770-649-7997.

Academic Bowl: Haynes Bridge will be hosting our first ever Academic Bowl tournament on February 20, 2010. We are looking for 8-10 more volunteers to help with lunch from 10:00-1:30. You would need to be able to pick it up, or serve, or clean up. Please contact Scott Fowler at fowlersa@fultonschools.org if you are willing to help.

Bullies & Bystanders in High Definition

Bullies are a concern in all schools and our counselors have identified a unique opportunity to get the message out to our students. On February 10th, Academy Theatre Company will be performing "Bullies & Bystanders in High Definition" for every grade. The performance will explore four different types of bullies, including the physical bully, mental bully, verbal bully, and the dating harassment bully from the perspective of bystanders. Following a vignette about the different types of bullies, students will be asked to suggest resolutions to each conflict. This program is proudly sponsored by the PTA through the Mini-Grants program.



J. Tom Morgan Comes to JCHS

Thursday, February 25th at 7:00

Mark your 2010 calendars for the night of February 25th at 7:00p.m. Former DeKalb County District Attorney and author of Ignorance is No Defense, A Teenager's Guide to Georgia Law, J. Tom Morgan will speak to parents regarding Georgia laws that impact young people. His powerful and engaging presentation generates open and frank discussions with the audience.

Calendar of Events

- President's Day – No School – Feb 12 & Feb 15
- Cluster Choral Concert – Feb 16
- Scoliosis Screening – Feb 18
- Academic Bowl – Feb 20 – 8:15 am – 3 pm
- PTA Day at the Capitol – Feb 23 (registration required)
- Early Release Day – Feb 24
- No School – Mar 12
- Julia Bernath Community Meeting – Mar 15 @ 9:30 – Ridgeview Charter MS
- Games Day Sign Ups – 8th – Mar 16
- Games Day Sign Ups – 7th – Mar 17
- Games Day Sign Ups – 6th – Mar 19
- Spring Picture Day – Mar 19
- Games Day – all grades – Apr 1-2
- Spring Break – Apr 5-9
- CRCT Testing – Apr 15-16; Apr 20-22
- Spring Cleanup & Shredderman Services – Apr 17 from 9-12
- Lunch and Learn – Apr 23

Ways to Help Your Child Be Responsible for Their Own Learning

As you reviewed your child's semester report card last month, you may have discussed goals for this semester and subjects where you would like to see your child make improvements. One of the goals of middle school is for students to begin to take *responsibility for their own learning* and be proactive in seeking out help. At the same time, adolescents need support from school and home if they are going to learn this important life skill.

Recently, every HBMS student put a new label in their agenda to remind them of the many opportunities for extra help they can receive. One of our school goals is to always offer students additional support beyond class time to assist them when they have questions. In addition to our existing programs, our graduation coach has added a study hall which has begun meeting each Tuesday and Thursday morning from 7:45 – 8:15 a.m. in room 41 on the 8th grade hall.

Additional supports you might want to encourage your child to pursue when he or she has questions include:

1. **Ask their teacher:** HBMS teachers can often help students before school, during lunch, and after school.
2. **Use the HBMS website to link to their teacher's website** at: <http://www.fultonschools.org/school/haynesbridge/faculty.html> or the **HBMS virtual library** at <http://www.fultonschools.org/school/haynesbridge/links.html>.
3. **Attend Working Lunch:** This program is available every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during lunch periods. Students simply ask their teacher for a pass and join Ms. Wilson in room 41 on the 8th grade hall. Parents can check their child's agenda for Working Lunch passes to see how often they attend.
4. **Visit our new Study Hall** any Tuesday or Thursday from 7:45 – 8:15 a.m. in room 41.
5. **Call Homework Hotline** any Monday – Thursday from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at 404-843-7700 to receive help from a Fulton County teacher.

HBMS PTA Happenings

HBMS Reaches Out: This has been a difficult year for many families, but through several charity drives organized by both the school and PTA last semester, our Haynes Bridge community demonstrated their tremendous generosity. **Thank you to everyone** who contributed in so many ways, including organizing, communicating, donating, collecting, and distributing. Here's a summary:

- Thanksgiving Reach Out (PTA and School Sponsored) - \$2,900 in gift cards
- Coat Drive – 26 coats collected
- Canned Food "Fight" (Drive) – 2,700 cans on a goal of 1,800 (avg over 4 cans/student)
- Books & Bears Drive – 300 Books and 400 "Bears"
- Eagles Angles Holiday Gift Drive - \$2,645 donated on a goal of \$1,325

Recycling: Turn trash into treasure at HBMS! Did you know that old cell phones & ink jet cartridges can be recycled for cash by the school? We also collect digital/electronic handheld games, PDAs, GPS, lap tops, net books, and Kindle type devices. Place these items in the bins adjacent to the 6th grade hall entrance (behind the front office). The next collection end date will be February 26, 2010.

Need Any Pine Straw? The PTA offers pine straw service throughout the school year for residents in the N. Fulton area for \$3.75 per bale, plus a delivery charge of \$12.00 (10 bale minimum). Pick your delivery day (Monday-Saturday) and week and we will do our best to meet your request. Forms can be found in the front office or on our PTA website.

Spring Clean-Up & Shredding Day: Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 17th, from 9-12 a.m. for this double event at HBMS. You are invited and needed to help spruce up the campus by bringing your gloves and garden tools and putting a little spring time beauty back into the school landscape. We can use adults and students, especially those who need Jr. Beta hours. We will also be hosting "The Shredderman" who will be on site to shred things such as documents, computer hard drives, CD's, video tapes, floppy disks and pill bottles. The charge is \$5 per box or bag (regardless of size) and 50% of the proceeds will be donated to HBMS. For more information about The Shredderman, go to www.shreddermanofga.com.

4 Easy Ways to Support PTA:

- TRUE BLUE SCHOOLS - New and existing Georgia Natural Gas customers can sign up for this program and GNG will donate money to our school. Visit www.trueblueschools.com for program details.
 - PUBLIX SCAN CARDS - Available in the front office and can be used every time you buy groceries at Publix.
 - BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION - Please collect box tops throughout the year and return them to the drop box by the 6th grade hallway.
 - CAMPBELL'S LABELS FOR EDUCATION - Go to www.e-LabelsforEducation.com to register.
- Please contact Michele Neiland @770-642-0341 with questions about any of these programs.