

# HBMS Eagle Eye



April 2009

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Visit [www.hbmspta.com](http://www.hbmspta.com) for a list of HBMS Committee Chairs and contact information for all Board members and Committee Chairs.

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everychild.onevoice.®

## Eagle Eye Staff

A Publication of Haynes Bridge Middle School PTA

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Articles are edited for content, length, and interest to our readers.

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## News From the President

It's hard to believe only one month remains in the 2008-2009 school year. The PTA's work continues through May—indeed all summer! But, I want to take the opportunity this last newsletter offers to thank all those who have worked to make this year such a success.

First, a big thanks to my fellow Board members: Ann Cox, Fen Chen Erickson, Karen LeCates, Kathy Lopez, Shelley Avant, Nikki Dobbins, Sherrie Board, and Michele Neiland. I couldn't have done my job without the support of this remarkable team. Six of these ladies will "retire" after this school year, having served HBMS in a variety of capacities over the years. Ann has been HBMS's Secretary for the past two years and has served as Membership Chair for three years. Fen Chen has served as Treasurer for the last two years and in the past has led the PALS (front desk) committee. Kathy Lopez has served as VP of Academic Enrichment for the past two years and chaired the PTA's Reflections committee for the past three years. Shelley Avant has served as VP of Communications the past two years, was Parliamentarian the year before that, and has chaired the PTA's Website and Newsletter committees for many years. Nikki Dobbins has been VP of Community Relations & Outreach this year, prior to that she was the Board's Parliamentarian, and in past years she chaired the PTA's Lunch & Learn and Red Ribbon committees. And finally, Sherrie Board has served as VP of Teacher and Student (now Student and Teacher!) Support for four years. These ladies have also been members of nominating committees and participated in numerous HBMS committee efforts over the years. Please be sure to thank them for their many years of dedicated service to HBMS when you see them.

Next I would like to thank HBMS PTA's wonderful Committee Chairs. Over 40 committee Chairs head our 33 committees, and this dedicated group of individuals leads the many PTA activities,

*"News From the President" continued on page 8*

## Information Day August 5<sup>th</sup>

Please reserve *Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>* now! That is Information Day at HBMS—the day each HBMS student will receive his/her homeroom assignment, class schedule, bus route, and locker assignment. Students will also have the opportunity on August 5 to buy lunch tickets and to "walk their schedule" (that way they will know where to go the first day of school); and, they will get the opportunity to meet their new teachers. If necessary, clinic forms should also be turned in on Information Day. And finally, parents will get the opportunity to sign up for Parent Connect that day as well. Parents are welcome and encouraged to join students at Information Day. To give each student the time he/she needs to accomplish all the goals set for this important day, each class is scheduled to come separately as detailed below:

- ◆ **6<sup>th</sup> grade: 8:30-10:00 a.m.**
- ◆ **7<sup>th</sup> grade: 10:30-11:30 a.m.**
- ◆ **8<sup>th</sup> grade: noon-1:00 p.m.**

Be sure to save some time to spend in the gymnasium as well—that is where you will be able to join the PTA and sign up for volunteer activities, buy school supplies and spirit wear, sign up for family portraits, and learn more about the PTA's annual gift wrap and pine straw fundraisers.

Over the summer, look for a letter from us with more details about this special day, including *PTA Membership* and *Volunteer Opportunity* forms

*"Information Day" continued on page 6*

## Final Lunch & Learn of the Year—May 1

HBMS's final Lunch & Learn of the year will be held on *Friday, May 1*, from *11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.* We have an exciting session scheduled: Chris Holzwarth, Director of Beyond the Applause, will present, "Empowering Students During the Middle School Years—Will Your Child be Prepared to Succeed in High School and Beyond?" Ms. Holzwarth will talk about having a successful experience in middle school; the importance of early college planning and the academic, social, and emotional support that are necessary in this process; being a positive advocate for your student; how to help your child connect school to work; and, becoming familiar with the GAcollge411 program in middle school. Drinks will be provided; you just need to pack a sack lunch. If you have any questions, please contact Kathryn Dahm, Lunch & Learn Committee Chair, [kdahm86@earthlink.net](mailto:kdahm86@earthlink.net) or 770-993-4882.

# HBMS PTA Happenings

**CANCELLED: Centennial High School's Freshman Survivor Camp:** CHS has regrettably had to cancel their Annual Freshman Survivor Camp, originally scheduled July 29-30 due to budget constraints. In a letter sent to families who had already registered, Assistant Principal, Ashley McGill, and Counselor, Melissa Freeman, said:

"We are disappointed that we will be unable to provide this program to our freshmen, as data from the camp has shown that students who participated in the Freshman Survivor Camp have higher grade point averages, fewer discipline referrals, and fewer absences than students who did not participate in the camp.

Furthermore, students who attended the Freshman Survivor Camp in previous years reported the following:

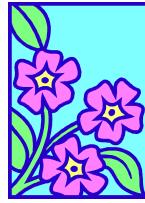
- They were more aware of the clubs/activities Centennial has to offer.
- They felt more comfortable finding their way around CHS.
- They better understood school rules and policies.
- They felt that there were several adults in the building whom they could trust.
- They felt that CHS students made an effort to make them feel welcome.
- They met new students from other middle schools.
- They learned new organizational and study skills.
- They were more knowledgeable about how to access their counselor.
- They felt more prepared to start 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

If you are a parent who has already paid for the camp, we sincerely apologize. We will return your original check or process a full refund.

Centennial will be unable to provide the camp to our students this year given the reduction in the number of days counselors and administrators are contracted to work during the 2009-10 school year. They hope to be able to provide this valuable program before the 2010-11 school year. In the meantime, they will incorporate aspects of the *Freshman Survivor Camp* into the mandatory 'Freshman Experience' seminars."

**Securing Second Semester Grades:** Please have your child bring a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) to his/her homeroom teacher before the end of the school year. **(Remember mail rates change before the end of the school year! You'll need to use a "forever" stamp or apply \$0.44 in postage to these envelopes.)** If you have more than one student at HBMS, please send a separate SASE in with each child. Report cards will then be sent to you when they are finalized.

**HBMS PTA Membership Summary—2008-2009:** Thank you for your 2008-2009 HBMS PTA membership! Please look for information about 2009-2010 PTA membership in the information packet that will arrive this summer. We'll see you at Information Day on Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>.



**Spring Plant Sale:** HBMS PTA is selling two beautiful hanging baskets this year: fern and ivy geraniums. If you haven't gotten your order in, there is still time. Order forms are available on the PTA website homepage ([www.hbmspta.com](http://www.hbmspta.com)), and orders are due by April 29. Your student can bring a completed form and a check payable to "HBMS PTA" into the front office in an envelope marked, "ATTN: Margaret Cleary."

Deliveries will be made in time for Mother's Day! Please plan to pick up your order on *Saturday, May 9, between 8:00-10:00 a.m.* at HBMS. Questions? Call Margaret Cleary, Plant Sale Fundraiser Chair, [mcleary1@att.net](mailto:mcleary1@att.net) or 678-642-1602.

**HBMS Survival Camp for Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Graders:** Haynes Bridge Middle School hopes that rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders won't just *come* to middle school; we want them to **ARRIVE**. HBMS is hosting its second annual Survival Camp for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders on *Thursday, July 30, 2009, from 9:00 a.m.-noon*. Incoming students will join 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, administrators, counselors, and staff to get a flavor of the middle school experience before school starts! The goal of the camp is for every sixth grader to **arrive** feeling organized, prepared, and confident. Registration forms were sent home with all 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Northwood E.S., Barnwell E.S., and Hillside E.S. They are also available in the front office or can be downloaded from the homepage of HBMS website: [www.haynesbridge.com](http://www.haynesbridge.com). *Applications are due by May 4*, and registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and are restricted to 100 students. The camp fee of \$20 includes a snack and t-shirt. Should financial assistance be needed, please send your written request directly to Mrs. Reeves, HBMS Principal, by May 4, 2009. If you have any questions about the camp, please contact Jennifer Wilson, Graduation Coach, at [wilson@fultonschools.org](mailto:wilson@fultonschools.org) or 770-740-7030.

**Pine Straw Still Available:** If you haven't bought the pine straw you need to complete your spring landscaping, you can still buy it through HBMS PTA before the end of the school year. A copy of *Pine Straw* order form is available on the PTA website homepage ([www.hbmspta.com](http://www.hbmspta.com)). High-quality bales are available for \$4.75/each, and you can pick the week you would like to schedule delivery. Please send completed forms and a check made out to "HBMS PTA" back into the office in an envelope marked, "Lori Abrams." Pine straw will be delivered to your home. This is such an easy way to support the school! If you have any questions, please contact Lori Abrams, Pine Straw Fundraiser Committee Chair, [lori.abrams@kcc.com](mailto:lori.abrams@kcc.com), 770-366-0850.

### We'd Like Your Pike Receipts Please!

In the course of your spring landscaping, if you visit Pike Nurseries, please remember to send your receipts into HBMS. HBMS participates in Pike's "Greenback" program which donates 7% of the purchase value of all receipts back to HBMS once we have collected over \$5,000 worth of receipts. As we tackle landscaping around the school, these Pike's credits come in handy. The Pike's Receipts collection box is located at the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade hall, near the administrative offices.









## North Fulton Community Charities

One of the charities HBMS actively supports is North Fulton Community Charities. They thank HBMS, and we want to thank you! We thought you would like to see a summary of the assistance NFCC provides to those in our community; figures for 2008 are reflected in the table below.

### Quick Look at 2008

• Food given out	19,712 times
• Clothing vouchers	2,849 families
• Rent/mortgage help	2,459 times
• Holiday program	1,638 families
• Electric bills paid	1,616 times
• Warm coats	1,500+ individuals
• School supplies	1,200+ children
• Easter baskets	850+ children
• Gas/heat bill paid	555 times
• Gas for the car	245 times
• Water bill paid	272 times
• Budget training	246 adults
• Prescription medicine	92 times
• MARTA passes	85 times
• Cars, vehicles donated	41 times

Total \$ assistance in 2008: \$872,004

4,632 families received assistance:

6,908 children

6,897 adults

446 seniors

14,251 individuals

How many of these families were seeking NFCC help for the very first time? 1,739

How many families does NFCC see each month? 1,381 (1 of every 10 walk-ins is new to NFCC)

Reprinted with permission: *The NFCC Express*, Spring 2009.

As you might expect, numbers are up versus 2007 in almost every category. NFCC experienced 23% growth over 2007. And, in January-February 2009, NFCC averaged 130 families a day. You can help NFCC directly, and this is a wonderful summer activity. Donations are welcome, and they always need volunteers for the office, pantry, and clothes closet. You can contact or visit NFCC at:

11270 Elkins Road  
Roswell, GA 30076  
770-640-0399

[www.nfcchelp.org](http://www.nfcchelp.org)



## PTA Takes Action

In the February edition of the *HBMS Eagle Eye*, we reported on key legislation that could have affected Georgia's school nurses. Here is an update on school nurse funding from the April 7, 2009 edition of "PTA Takes Action," GA PTA's weekly review of legislative activity:

"Great news and a heartfelt thank you to all the schools that sent in Popsicle sticks and to our members who called or emailed their legislators in our campaign to save the school nurse funding. The 2010 budget that passed contained almost full funding for nurses: \$29.1 million (only a 3% cut). Congratulations on making your voices heard!"

## Volunteer Roundup . . . We Need Your Help!

There are always opportunities to volunteer at HBMS. Visit the PTA website ([www.hbmspta.com/CommitteeDescriptions](http://www.hbmspta.com/CommitteeDescriptions)) to learn more about all HBMS's committees and/or contact a Board member or committee Chair. You will find a spot for your talents, interests, and availability. Coming into the school and seeing your HBMS student in his/her environment is very rewarding—find out for yourself!

### Current needs include:

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration—See article (including committee contact information) on page 3.

Committee Chair openings—There are still a few open positions on the HBMS PTA executive team:

- ◆ Building Beautification Chair
- ◆ Parent to Parent Chair

These committees are described in detail on the PTA website ([www.hbmspta.com](http://www.hbmspta.com)); or feel free to contact any PTA Board member or current committee Chair to learn more.

Over the summer, you will receive a *Volunteer Opportunities* form in your back-to-school letter. Please take the time to review committees (described on the PTA website), select one or more to help, and return this form on Information Day!

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that you can complete ahead of time and bring with you on August 5<sup>th</sup>. We can't wait to see you on August 5<sup>th</sup>—until then, have a wonderful summer!

*p.s. This year, **Affidavit of Residency forms** are due before Information Day. All students new to HBMS—that is, all incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders and new 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders—will need to bring a completed Affidavit of Residency form into the HBMS office before Information Day or their schedule will not be released that day. If you did not receive a form from your elementary school, you can get a copy in the HBMS office; forms will also be available on the PTA website, [www.hbmspta.com](http://www.hbmspta.com).*

# HBMS's 2009-2010 Teacher and Classified Employee of the Year

Earlier this year, HBMS announced the winners of its 2009-2010 Teacher of the Year and Classified Employee of the Year awards: Mr. Rob Bidwell and Mrs. Stacie Chandler.

Both professionals were named following a thorough process. HBMS's Teacher of the Year process began in February when all HBMS staff members were asked to nominate a certified teacher for this honor. Every nominee was placed on a ballot, and staff members were asked to vote for one person. The three certified teachers declared finalists, besides Mr. Bidwell, were: Ms. Aiesha Bridges, Mrs. Donna Mathis, and Mrs. Jeanne Schultz. Finalists proceeded to a round of interviews/observation. A panel made up of Administrators, the Teacher of the Year from the past school year, and a member of the PTA, interviewed each of the Teacher of the Year candidates and observed these candidates at work in his/her classroom. Panelists scored the candidates, and the teacher with the highest score following this round was named Teacher of the Year.

To select HBMS's Classified Employee of the Year, HBMS staff members were asked to nominate a classified employee. Every nominee was placed on a ballot, and the professional employee receiving the most votes following this step was named "Classified Employee of the Year."

Mr. Bidwell and Mrs. Chandler were honored during a breakfast hosted by HBMS in March. We are proud of these terrific HBMS staff members and are sure you would like to get to know them better. Following is a brief profile of each:

## **Mr. Rob Bidwell—8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Teacher 2009-2010 Teacher of the Year**

This is Mr. Bidwell's first year at Haynes Bridge Middle School but his 13<sup>th</sup> year in education. He came to HBMS from the Coffee County School System in Douglas, Georgia where he spent his own middle and high school years. In Douglas, he spent 12 years teaching middle school math and PE. Prior to launching his teaching career, Mr. Bidwell spent six years working as an auditor after earning his BBA in Accounting from the University of Georgia. He says he never felt he was helping anyone become a better person in that role, so he made the decision to return to school himself to facilitate his career change.

Mr. Bidwell's wife, Paige, is a speech pathologist who works primarily with children who have special needs. They have two children of their own, a nine-year-old daughter who loves to dance, and a seven-year-old son for whom the sun "rises and sets" with football, basketball, and baseball. His son's interests allow Mr. Bidwell an outlet for his passion—coaching kids. He has coached for many years at all levels, but now his focus is on coaching his son and other children his son's age. He says, "I enjoy any endeavor that involves working or playing with kids—it's not a job, I love it!" Mr. Bidwell grew up in Central North Carolina which explains his continuing fervor for the UNC Tarheels.

About winning Teacher of the Year honors, Mr. Bidwell says, "This year has been incredible!!! I hope parents realize just how extraordinary and wonderful Haynes Bridge Middle School is . . . I have never worked at a better school. This school provides a safe, nurturing environment in which our kids can learn and be involved in an endless choice of activities. Not all schools provide this type environment. THE BEST PART OF THIS SCHOOL IS THE KIDS!!! They are fantastic, and I learn as much from them as they learn from me. I am very proud of each child and look forward to watching them grow and mature into successful, productive citizens. Never a day goes by now where I do not feel truly blessed by these children. It is an honor to win this award. However, it is not about me, it is about the kids. I dedicate this award to all our students for they make each day a new adventure and a blessing."

## **Mrs. Stacie Chandler, Data Clerk 2009-2010 Classified Employee of the Year**

Mrs. Chandler began working in the Fulton County School System as a Data Clerk at HBMS in 2005. She came to Haynes Bridge Middle School from Fort Wayne, Indiana—her home town. There, she began her career working for ITT Aerospace Communications where she spent ten years. Mrs. Chandler then initiated her work in schools, beginning with three years in Fort Wayne Community Schools and then working for Fairfax County Schools in Alexandria, Virginia for the three years preceding her move to Georgia. Mrs. Chandler and her husband, Colin, have a son named Tyler. Tyler is enjoying his senior year at Roswell High School.

As for being named Classified Employee of the Year, Mrs. Chandler says, "I am so blessed to work with the most amazing, loving, supportive people. Haynes Bridge is my second family, and I absolutely love working here. This award means so much to me because I know there are so many wonderful employees here at Haynes Bridge who are deserving of this recognition."



## Please Record Your Summer Hours!

Many thanks for all the volunteer hours worked and recorded throughout this past school year. Though the pace slows down in summer, volunteer hours still add up. Please remember to record these hours for HBMS! Simply keep track of volunteer time over the course of the summer, and then record the total hours worked in the office log when you return to school in August. Or, you can always log VIPS hours on-line: visit the HBMS website ([www.hbmspta.com](http://www.hbmspta.com)) and click on "To record at home volunteer hours" at the bottom of the home page. Dana Dowdy, VIPS Committee Chair, [danadowdy@comcast.net](mailto:danadowdy@comcast.net) or 770-310-6103.

### Did You Know? A PTA Website Fun Fact

Did you know that information about HBMS's Information Day will be available on-line this summer? Scheduled for *August 5* this year, Information Day is an event you don't want to miss (see related article on page 1). Learning about this event ahead of time is the best way to ensure you get the most out of the day. Supplement the information you receive in the mail with your on-line reading. Visit the PTA website, [www.hbmspta.com](http://www.hbmspta.com).

Questions about the website or the HBMS PTA group? Contact Shelley Avant, Website Committee Chair, [shelley@avants.net](mailto:shelley@avants.net) or 770-619-9097.

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fundraisers, and events we all depend upon. While several Chairs are also retiring this year, some are returning to their roles. I offer my thanks to every one of these ladies.

Of course, I need to thank every one of you who volunteered for an HBMS activity, contributed to a fundraiser, and/or joined HBMS PTA. Your contributions of time, effort, and funds helped us support students and families, teachers and staff.

Finally, I would also like to thank Debbie Reeves, and every HBMS teacher and staff member. A special thanks to Ronnie Wilson, HBMS's head custodian, who is retiring after 34 years! He has been a fixture at Information Day, the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration, and countless activities in between these events, easing the work of many volunteers. The dedication of HBMS staff members to the school and its students is unparalleled.

Though many current Board members are retiring, our 2009-2010 Board has been elected, and HBMS is in good hands! As President, Karen LeCates will lead a wonderful team next year. You can join them. While most of our committee Chair positions have been filled, there are a few opportunities left (see the article on page 6). And, look for the *Volunteer Opportunities* form that will come in the summer information letter, investigate the opportunities outlined there, and sign up.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as PTA President these past two years; it has been a privilege. Enjoy your summer!

Katie Mazzuckelli, PTA President  
[mazzuckelli@comcast.net](mailto:mazzuckelli@comcast.net) or 770-664-6307

# Calendar of Events

## April

1-3	Games Days; 7 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> , and 8 <sup>th</sup> graders respectively
2	HBMS Talent Show and PTA Board meeting, 6:45 p.m.
3	Book swap
6-10	No School, Spring Break
16-17	CRCT testing, all grades
21-23	CRCT testing (continued), all grades
24	Make-up day: CRCT testing
23	Band cluster concert, 7:00 p.m. (CHS)
27	Interim reports go home Make-up day, CRCT testing
28	Orchestra cluster concert, 7:00 p.m. (CHS)
30	GA Trip meeting for parents of 8 <sup>th</sup> graders, 6:00 p.m. HBMS Twisted Taco Night, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

## May

1	Lunch & Learn, 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
4	HBMS Teacher appreciation luncheon CHS TAG/Honors teachers visit HBMS 8 <sup>th</sup> grade classes Orchestra concert, 7:00 p.m.
5	Band concert, 7:00 p.m.
7-9	8 <sup>th</sup> grade trip
9	Spring plant sale delivery date, 8:00-10:00 a.m.
11-15	Spring book fair, Media Center
12	SPARK (drama club) variety show, 7:00 p.m.
14	Chorus concert, 7:00 p.m.
15	Hospitality breakfast
19-21	8 <sup>th</sup> grade final exams
21	8 <sup>th</sup> grade celebration, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
22	Last day school/second semester

See [www.hbmspta.com](http://www.hbmspta.com)  
for the full 2008-2009  
HBMS PTA Calendar of Events