

Brighten Academy PTO



February 19, 2014

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President's Message

February newsletter dedicated to our Room Parents!

Since our last newsletter, PTO hosted two successful events: the Brighten Blizzard and Teacher Appreciation Week. The Brighten Blizzard, co-chaired by **Cheryl Francis** and **Sunita Jefferson**, offered many fun ways to celebrate the holiday season. I am happy to report the event raised \$1,933, the most raised to date at a Blizzard.

Teacher Appreciation Week, chaired by **Ginger Williams**, was a fun way to let our faculty and staff know how much we appreciate all they do. The beach theme could not have been more welcome since the week was sandwiched between two different snow and ice storms. Teachers received both fun and useful gifts. Thank you to everyone who contributed gifts or money for our teachers and volunteered at one or more of the week's activities.

Our next event is the Variety Show, set for March 28. Get ready to wow us by performing, or to be wowed by attending! More information about the Variety Show is in a separate section of this newsletter.

As always, our events would not enjoy the success they do if it were not for our amazing chairs, volunteer parents, grandparents, and Room Parents.

At the start of the school year, many Room Parents thought they were volunteering to help plan a few parties and trips for their child's class. Little did they know that in addition to helping teachers, Room Parents are called on to help with almost every PTO event, at least one or two Governing Board events, and they receive occasional requests from our administrators. Room Parents are an incredibly hard-working group of volunteers. Their efforts benefit everyone: students, faculty, staff, PTO, the Governing Board, and school-wide fund-raising efforts.

Thank you, Room Parents. Your efforts go above and beyond the classroom and serve the entire school. We appreciate you, and we dedicate this newsletter to you. Parents and teachers, please join us in thanking your Room Parents today.

Sincerely,

Lynn Murray
President

Charter School of the Year:

What a thrill it is to be recognized by the Georgia Charter Schools Association as 2014 Charter School of the Year. This deserved honor comes with a \$50,000 grant from The Coca-Cola Foundation. We have always known we have one of the best schools in the state, but it is great to let others know, as well.

The quote below is from our director and was taken from a very heartfelt letter she wrote the Brighten community after announcement of the award.

Our success lies within our faith. Our faith in each other, our students, our families, and our community is what made us winners. We simply just never give up. We don't give up on each other, on our school, or on our quest to make this world a better place. It is this faith that you all put in our school, its staff, and in its leaders that leaves us eternally grateful....I have faith that as long as we are together that we will continue to "Enlighten minds and Brighten the future."

Lisa McDonald

Got Talent?



It's that time again! Calling all singers, actors, dancers, comics, musicians, and magicians -- get your routines ready for the annual Brighten Academy Variety Show! Registration forms were sent home with all students this week.

Performance Reviews:

March 6 and 7, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Brighten Academy Media Center

Dress Rehearsal

March 27, 6:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, Jeffords Center, 9190 Campbellton Street

Variety Show

March 28, 6:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, Jeffords Center, 9190 Campbellton Street

Volunteers In Action

Brighten Blizzard:

Cheryl Francis, Co-Chair

Sunita Jefferson, Co-Chair

Room Leaders:

Heather Beachy

Chandi Hillard

Toya Sasser

Terri May

Peter Compitello

Buffi Triplett

Kerri Eaton

Kathy Miller

Trishia Hussey

Sara Sousa

Rick Jefferson

Lisa Prysock

Lynn Cherry

Sharon Mason

Lisa Burton

Marian Gamble

Valerie Blake

Mr. White - Band and Chorus

Mrs. Gore – Performing Stars

Mrs. Arnold – Book Fair

Thanks to all who pitched in at the Blizzard; we had over 50 parent volunteers!

Teacher Appreciation Week:

Ginger Williams, Chair

Room Parents

Mandy Eaton

Genna Allen

Marcus Elder

Heather Beachy

Rashida Lineham

Anita Brown-Glen

Julie Tyson

Kim Buhl

Peggy Watson

Christina Craton

Jennifer Maxwell and The Coca-Cola Company

Our Room Parents make all PTO events run smoothly:

Heather Beachy

Roshanda Powers

Brandi Altenhofen-Bischoff

Megan Kalos

Kim Buhl

Candice Markel

Leslie Griffin

Heather Kite

Julie Tyson

Tamara Powers

Krista Polane

Mandy Eaton

Emily Roberts

Kathy Miller

Amy Hultquist

Rashida Lineham

Polly Wallace

Michelle Elliott

Katie Smith

Asasa Rasheed

Dana Lawrence

Christina Craton

Lynn Sorg

Junney Michel Vielot

Kim Fields

Genna Allen

Stacy Tuohy

Yearbook

Last Chance!

The deadline for ordering a 2013-2014 yearbook is February 28th . Contact PTO if you need an order form.

Brighten Academy Apparel:

Brighten Academy PTO has partnered with the French Toast clothing line to offer great looking, quality apparel with embroidered monogramming. We have recently added the Phoenix logo specifically for our middle school students. To see what is available or place an order, go to <http://www.frenchtoast.com/>, or call 1-800-373-6248, and use School Code QS5SXAD for Elementary and School Code QS5CNCC for Middle. Apparel and accessories available through these School Codes, including embroidered tee shirts and sweat shirts, meet uniform requirements. PTO will receive a portion of all on-line sales.



Upcoming Events:

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| February 20: | Moe's Spirit Night, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. |
| March 20: | Yogli Mogli Spirit Night, 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. |
| March 28: | Variety Show, March 28, FPC's Jeffords Center, 6:00 p.m., Chair: Genobia Babalola |
| April 15: | Zaxby's Spirit Night, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. |
| April 25: | Spring Social, MoJoBaS Fun Factory, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Chair: Hilary Ferdinand |
| May 5 – 9: | Charter Schools' Week , Founder's Day, Chair: Open |
| May 15: | Yogli Mogli Spirit Night, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. |
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Join Us:

If you have not joined PTO for academic year 2013-2014, the membership deadline is March 1st. PTO membership has its privileges. You must be a paid member to vote for Governing Board members in the May election. Membership is \$5 per person. Contact Shellie Ayers for a membership form.

Like us on Facebook! This is a great way to stay apprised of events and activities.

PTO Officers' Contact Information:

President: Lynn Murray, lynnmurray10@bellsouth.net

Treasurer: Candice Markel, candicemarkel@yahoo.com

VP of Elementary School: Shellie Ayers, shellieayers@gmail.com

VP of Middle School: Ki Foster, kiannefe@hotmail.com

Recording Secretary: Whitney Lester, whitney.lester@douglas.k12.ga.us

Correspondence Secretary: Jerrie Waits, jerrie_waits@bellsouth.net

Teacher Representative: Rachel Garner, rgarner@brightenacademy.com

Do you have a PTO question or concern? If so, contact us. We are here to help make our school the best it can be.

Also, be sure and check the PTO tab at www.brightenacademy.com throughout the year for information about current events and apparel ordering information including a flyer with pictures and pricing!
