

July 30, 2010

Greetings Friends of Haynes Bridge MS,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying an extra long summer this year. Your PTA is hard at work preparing for this coming school year, focusing on building our community spirit by involving local businesses, revamping the PTA's website, creating a HBMS PTA FaceBook page and identifying areas where we can help support the school's success.

We are very excited to welcome our new principal, Mr. Dru Tomlin to HBMS. Mr. Tomlin comes to us from Webb Bridge Middle School and brings lots of fresh ideas. We are in the process of arranging several "Principal Chats" with Mr. Tomlin in early September to enable everyone to get to know one another. Please sign up for our email news flashes and newsletter on the HBMS PTA website for further details.

Parent Involvement

Study after study has demonstrated that a critical component of any school's success is your involvement, not only with your student at home, but also at school. The PTA provides an easy avenue to get involved through monetary and time donations. As you ponder this, consider that as our financial needs are increasing, fundraising income has been lower than anticipated. We urge you to join our PTA, participate in fundraisers and, if possible, make an additional tax-deductible donation to help support our school.

Funding Initiatives

The PTA tries to help as many areas of the school as possible with funding. Some of our major expenses include teacher stipends (used for classroom supplies), mini grants to teachers and staff with academically enriching ideas (such as the presentation of Bullies & Bystanders, visits by authors, and the Literature Fair), fifty percent of the cost of student agendas, and support for the counseling department and media center. Furthermore, last year, we were able to make direct contributions to each grade level to help offset the costs of an educational field trip – we hope to do the same thing again this year.

A new initiative that we hope to fund is providing more smart boards at HBMS. We will have a specific fundraiser early next calendar year to raise money specifically for this campaign. Please stay tuned!

Fundraisers

We are trying some exciting new/revised fundraisers this year. Though we will still promote Sally Foster gift wrap and cookie dough later this fall, we are kicking off our fundraising season with a new and improved Entertainment Book. Instead of the thick, unwieldy coupon book from last year, we'll have a thin, pocket sized version with on-line access to the full selection of coupons, including the ever-popular Regal Cinemas and Dicks Sporting Goods, which pay for the book with only a couple of uses. Please buy lots and sell them to friends & family or keep them for yourself! As an added bonus, out of town relatives and friends can purchase local versions online with all proceeds going to HBMS.

Information Day – August 18th

Join us for Information Day 2010 when students get their schedules, purchase lockers, and meet their teachers. Parents have the opportunity to join the PTA, purchase spirit wear and school supplies, and discuss volunteer opportunities with PTA representatives. PTA membership forms (normally distributed with this letter) and an Information Day checklist will be available as you enter the school. Below is the schedule by grade:

- 6th Grade: 8:30-10:30 am
- 7th Grade: 11:00 am -12:00 pm
- 8th Grade: 1:30-2:30 pm

Affidavit of Residence Form

Each year, Fulton County requires notarized affidavits of residence forms from all students. New and sixth grade students complete one form, while students returning to HBMS complete a second form. ***Students must have a completed form on file prior to Information Day in order to receive their schedule.*** Please see the HBMS website for more details and downloadable versions of the forms.

Campus Clean and Beautiful Day – August 7th

Prior to Information Day, our new principal, Mr. Dru Tomlin, would like to host a campus clean-up day on Saturday, August 7th from 8-12. Please take an hour or so to meet Mr. Tomlin and pitch in to help beautify our campus. This is a great way for Jr. Beta and Beta Club members to earn a few extra hours before school starts.

Communications

Timely, relevant communication with HBMS parents is one of our greatest challenges. Last year, we started using Constant Contact to manage email lists and send out important school alerts and PTA newsletters. We believe this was effective for those on the list, but we were not able to reach everyone. On Information Day, please make sure that your information on file with the county is current and accurate and include your email address on the PTA membership form.

This year, we're revamping the HBMS website to make it more useful to you and include our community businesses. As part of this make over, we are adding Parent Pages, where parents who own a small company can list their business for free and parents who need the services can find them and help support our community.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions about this letter, PTA programs, or any of the volunteer opportunities available. We look forward to seeing you on August 7th & 18th!

Best wishes,

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