

September 2009

Calendar

September

- 5-6 NASCAR fundraiser-
Atlanta Motor Spdw
- 7 Labor Day!
NO SCHOOL!
- 8 HJ Wings N Things
Spirit Night
- 10 PTA Board Meeting
- 11-18 Read-A-Thon
- 15 Reflections Info Night
- 21 Read-A-Thon
collections due
- 25 Junction Lanes Spirit
Night
- 29 PTA General Meeting

October

- 6 PTA Board Meeting
- 10 Fall Festival
- 13 PTA General Meeting
- 16 NO SCHOOL!
- 19 NO SCHOOL!
- 20 Chick-Fil-A Spirit
Night
- 26 Trick or Treat Night
- 26 Book Fair Begins

November

- 3 PTA Board Meeting
- 6 Movies Under the
Stars
- 17 PTA General Meeting
- 18 Stevie B's Spirit
Night
- 23-27 Fall Break
NO SCHOOL!

For a full calendar of events,
visit our web site at
www.welchpta.com



The Pup Post

It's Time To Read! Kick-Off is Friday, September 11th!

Welch PTA is excited to announce more details of the Read-A-Thon, our primary fundraiser of the year! The "Join The Team" Read-A-Thon will begin on Friday, September 11th with a big Kick-Off celebration at Barnes and Noble Bookstore in Ashley Park on Friday night from 5-7 p.m. and again Saturday morning from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. There will be reading, special guest story tellers, prizes, trivia games, crafts, poetry and more! The Read-A-Thon will end on the 18th and sponsorship forms and all donations must be turned in on Monday, September 21st.

During the course of the Read-A-Thon, students will be encouraged to read (or be read to) for 30 minutes a day and to seek sponsorship for each minute of reading time. The "goal" is for each student to read a total of 210 minutes over the course of the Read-A-Thon. The intention is to get the children in the habit of reading every day.

All students reading (or being read to) for at least 60 minutes will receive a prize. Additional prizes will be awarded as mid-week incentives and at the end of the Read-A-Thon, even more prizes will be awarded to students based on their total number of minutes read and sponsorship levels.

Plus, the top three classrooms will receive Barnes and Noble gift cards so that teachers may purchase books for their classrooms.



Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body—Joseph Addison

A Message From Stephen Schaefer, Welch PTA President

The first month of school was great! It was wonderful to see such a great turnout at our Bruster's and Partner's Pizza spirit nights and the Meet The Teacher BBQ where we served over 800 hot dogs! Your attendance at these functions not only supports the Welch PTA but also brings families together and helps local businesses.

During September, we will have our biggest fundraiser of the year, the Read-A-Thon. Our hope is that it will stimulate children to read on a regular basis. This will also give children a chance to raise funds for PTA goals of guided reading sets, books for the library and in-house field trips.

And going along with the "Join the Team" theme, each class will have a football field display where they can mark their overall class progress toward their goal. First class to the End Zone wins a prize!

A portion of all Barnes and Noble sales during the Kick-Off attributed to Welch families will come back to the PTA, so be sure to say you are with Welch! In addition, there will be a Barnes and Noble voucher number that you can give to family and friends who live elsewhere and they can use it at any Barnes and Noble in the US and Welch PTA will still get credit.

However, the main way we hope to raise money is through the sponsorships. On Monday, September 8th, your child will come home with a Read-A-Thon packet, including a "My Sponsor Sheet" form. Students should ask family and friends to support their reading and start signing them up on the sponsor sheet right away.

Each student's goal is to have at least 10 sponsors who are willing to give a flat donation or a donation based on the number of minutes read.

Remember, this is our primary fundraiser of the year. It will help fund all of our PTA programs and activities for this school year and will help us give donations of supplies and materials to the school. Please encourage your students to read! This is a way they can help their school themselves, simply by reading a book! It will teach them that THEY can make a difference!

September will also be the kick-off drive for the PTA-sponsored Reflections Cultural Arts Competition. We know the talent at Welch and would love to see the students shine! Look inside for more information on how your child can be involved.

With support from parents, teachers and the community we can make this the best year possible. I look forward to seeing you at our next PTA meeting on Tuesday, September 29th.

Sincerely,
Stephen Schaefer



How Can I Help at Welch this month?

- The following PTA board positions are still available: Vice President-Membership, Parliamentarian, and Programs Chairperson. These PTA Subcommittee positions are open: Grant Writing, School Board Liaison, 5th Grade Activities, Teacher Appreciation and Hospitality. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Stephen Schaefer at stschaefer@yahoo.com or 770-254-9860.
- Pick 5 Program—Flyers went home in August with information about Pick 5 Ways To Help Welch! You can help Welch PTA by collecting Box Tops, candy wrappers, Tyson Project A+ logos, juice pouches and Campbell's soup labels. If you shop at Target, Office Depot, BJ's Wholesale or Publix, if you are a customer of Georgia Natural Gas or if you drink Coke products, you can also help Welch! Download the Pick 5 flyer from www.welchpta.com for more information.
- Join us for September Spirit Nights at Junction Lanes and HJ Wings n Things.

Teacher Classifieds

If you would like to donate items that teachers need, please check out these classified ads. If you have any questions about the items needed, please contact the teacher directly.

- Ms. Abraham (3rd grade) needs packs of handwriting paper to place in handwriting folders
- Ms. Mitchell (2nd grade) needs a pocket chart stand, which can be found at The School Box store.
- Ms. Penson (1st grade) needs a cassette player, even a used one would be fine!

What Has Welch PTA Done For The School Lately?

Over the last three years, Welch PTA has donated much needed items to the school, sponsored many events and activities, beautified the school grounds, and so much more! Often, parents and even teachers don't realize how much the PTA is actually doing! Below is a partial listing of what your Welch PTA has done to improve the education and lives of the students and to support the faculty at Welch.

Last year, Welch PTA spent approximately \$7100 on technology improvements for Welch. This included purchasing eleven scanners that are used to score tests and updating 50 computers to Windows XP for use in classrooms. We paid \$2500 towards the renewal of the Accelerated Reader, Star Reader and Star Math programs. We purchased volleyball nets and equipment for the gym. We paid for magazine subscriptions for the library, which are needed to be compliant with library standards. At the end of the year, we also paid \$895 for paper and toner cartridges for use by teachers.

The previous year, we gave \$7000 in classroom grants. These grants were divided up between the grade levels and were used to purchase much needed classroom materials chosen by the teachers. During 2006-2007, about \$3000 was donated to the school.

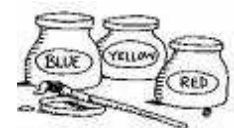
In addition to these expenditures, the PTA has sponsored many school events and activities. Each year, the PTA has sponsored Veteran's Day events, Muffins with

Mom and Donuts with Dad, and educational events such as Math and Science Night and BBQ, Books and Bingo. We have held a Back To School Cookout for the last two years and we've welcomed Kindergarten and Pre-K parents for Tears and Cheers on the first day of school.

We've held Fall Festival and Spring Fling, which are loads of fun for the whole family. We've had student and volunteer appreciation events and we have had great Teacher Appreciation events that included purchasing books for the library in honor of teachers, planting the gardens in front of each building, and growing The Thankful Tree in the main hallway.

There have been Family Movie Nights, we sponsored the mural in the main hallway, we have decorated the teacher lunchroom, painted the US Map, 4 square and hopscotch, and PTA volunteers even change the marquee out front every week.

As you can see, your Welch PTA is very active and involved. We have some great events planned this year and we will continue to make generous donations to the school as well. We want to help every student in the school be all that they can be and YOU can make a difference too! When you join Welch PTA, your donations of time, talents and money go toward changing the lives of all the children at Welch.



Support the Welch Art Program and Our Art Teacher, Ms. Doolittle!

Our Welch art teacher, Mrs. Doolittle, is terrific and loved by all! She utilizes the national art standards in the classroom every day. Students learn the elements of art and the principals of design—they just don't realize it because Mrs. Doolittle makes it fun!

Many parents don't realize what the county and state school systems do and do not pay for. Did you know that the school system only pays a portion of the art teacher's salary? The school has to pick up the rest of the tab! In the past, Welch PTA has been asked to pay for the school's portion of the art teacher's salary. While we would love to help the school in this way, PTA Board members were advised by Georgia PTA President Sheila Cornelius that "PTAs should not provide funding for anything that is the responsibility of the education system (such as a salary for school employees)." Further, in a recent Time Magazine article, Charles J. Saylor, president of the National PTA,

said, "Parents should not have to raise money to underwrite staff salaries. That's the responsibility of the local government."

With all of that being said, the PTA would like to encourage your full support of the upcoming cookie dough sale, which is sponsored by the school, not PTA. It is our understanding that the funds raised from this activity will go toward the art teacher's salary.

In addition, if you would like to make a donation that will go directly to supplies and materials for the Art Program, go to www.adoptaclassroom.org. Use the classroom locator to navigate to the Welch page. Once there, click Jennifer Doolittle and then click ADOPT to make a donation. 100% of your donation goes to the art program. You will receive a report from Adopt-A-Classroom detailing all of the supplies Mrs. Doolittle purchases with your donation.

“Beauty is...” Reflections Arts Competition Coming Up!

The Reflections Cultural Arts Program is a National PTA art competition where students in preschool through grade 12 are encouraged to create and submit works of art in six areas: dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts (which includes art forms such as drawing, painting, print making, and collage). The program is designed to augment the school art program and to give students the chance to express themselves creatively and receive recognition for their work. It encourages them to analyze their thoughts and feelings and to grow intellectually. Over the last 40

years, millions of students in the US and in American schools overseas have participated in the program.

Our Welch Art teacher, Mrs. Doolittle, is heading up the Reflections Committee for Welch PTA.

Welch PTA wants to encourage all students to participate in this year's competition, where the theme is: “Beauty is...”

Students who are interested should come with a parent or guardian to Reflections Information Night on Tuesday, September 15th. The deadline for contest submissions

will be November 4th.

More information will be coming home in Monday folders, so encourage your student to get their creative juices flowing and be thinking about what beauty means to them!

“Art is a shadow of what a person is thinking...a small glimpse of what they hold inside. Little secrets, regrets, joys. Every line has its own meaning.”
Sarah, Los Cerros Middle Sch., 1999

“Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us or we find it not.”
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Braves Game Spirit Night!

Come show your spirit for Welch and the Atlanta Braves on Saturday, October 3rd! Tickets are just \$5 each and if students arrive by 5pm, they can participate in the on-field parade! Tickets must be purchased through Welch PTA by September 14th! Look for a flyer with full details to come home in Monday folders.

Discount Cards Are Here!

Discount Cards are now on sale for \$10 each. They are valid through 6/30/2010 and offer discounts on many popular restaurants in Newnan, including some where we will be having Spirit Nights. MVP members of Welch PTA will receive a discount card with membership. For more info, visit www.welchpta.com.

PTA Meeting, Sept. 29



Our next PTA meeting will be Tuesday, September 29th in the cafeteria. Dinner will be served for a nominal fee, there will be door prizes and an informative program. We will also have free child care available. Look for more information and a full agenda to come home the week before the meeting.

New PTA Website!

The new Welch PTA web site is now live! If you have bookmarked our website on your computer, you will need to update your bookmark to <http://www.welchpta.com/>.

You'll find all PTA forms/flyers, newsletters, minutes, contact information and more on the new web site. You can also join the Yahoo Group and see a calendar of events. Be sure to check it out!

Spirit Night Funds

Our first spirit night of the year at Bruster's raised a total of \$380 for PTA! This spirit night was extra fun because Welch teachers and principal's worked the windows taking your orders.

Our Partner's Pizza Spirit Night raised \$95 (10% of sales) and Ms. Geeslin's class won the pizza party for having the most students attend! Thanks and Congrats!

Fall Festival News!

Last year's Fall Festival was a huge hit and this year will be no different! Mark your calendar—Fall Festival will be Saturday, October 10th. There will be a petting zoo, rock wall, magic shows, lots of inflatables, spooky box crawl, vendors, crafts, food and so much more! Armbands and tickets will go on sale very soon, so check Monday folders for more information! Remember, if you join Welch PTA as an All-Star or MVP member, you get a free Fall Festival Armband so join today!



This month, the PTA would like to thank the following people and businesses for their help with these recent school activities:

PTA Meeting—Patti Griffith at The School Box, Amanda Jones and Innisbrook

Publix—\$150 gift card to be used towards supplies for PTA events

Bruster's/Nathan's Spirit Night—Thank you to Bruster's for their support of Welch students and the Welch PTA. Special thanks to the following teachers and parents for volunteering their time to take orders and make our spirit night extra fun: Ms. Vaughan, Dr. Golden, Ms. Schnabel, Ms. Singleton, Ms. Daniel, Ms. Leach, Ms. Nelson, Mr. Duncan, Ms. Perrotta, David Petrino and Troy Sperberg

Attention New Families!

Get up-to-date information on everything Welch PTA by visiting our web site at www.welchpta.com.

While there, be sure to sign up for our Welch PTA Yahoo Group, so you stay informed about all PTA events and activities.



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WELCH ELEMENTARY PTA

Please contact the PTA officers if you have any ideas, questions or concerns:

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770-254-9860

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POSITION AVAILABLE!

Sherry Mitchell, Vice Pres., Fundraising
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Kim Schnabel, Secretary
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For more information about PTA and/
or to contact additional committee
chairpersons, please visit us on the
web at www.welchpta.com.

To subscribe to the Welch PTA Yahoo
Group, please go to
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/
welchpta/

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770-254-2597

Welch PTA thanks new All-Star and MVP Members!

All-Star Members:

- Shannon & Michael Curtin
Stephanie & Yianni Koukoutsis
Tabitha Wilkerson
Willie Wilkerson, Jr.
Judith & Andrew Motz
Allen & Lora Goodwin
Susie & David Jonassen
Sherri & Brian Mullins
Rachel & Jimmy Durham
Regina & Ricky Allen
Lori & Chris Beuttenmuller
Blaine & Natalie Pitchford
San You & Chun Kim
Conrad & Denise Williams
Steve & Tammy Reeder
Jennifer & Tony Doolittle
Joe & Connie Carroll
Jennifer & David Petrino
Kristin & Lee Rubenstein
Melinda & Kevin Morris

All-Star Members:

- Wendy & Mark Walter
Hope & Robert Huey
Lynn & Kip Strickland
Kim & Chris Goltermann
Kim & Mike McDonald
Julie & Kevin Daniell
Tibu & Terrence Purnell
Tonya & Tabb Pearson
Monica & Render Terrell
Shawna & Mike Martin
Wayne & Julie Nash
Brad & Kathleen Morgenroth
Chuck Tripp
Susan Colonna
Alan & Lea Ann Hurd
Tony & Brandon Miller
Sean & Melissa Levy
Tim & Mariela Antrim
Elaine & Brian Eason
Melissa & Kurt Weatherly

MVP Members:

- Thomas & Sherry Mitchell
Earl & Marilyn Mitchell
Stephen & Rachel Schaefer
Ray & Jeannie Rice
Jeannie & Joseph Doole
Daniel Ricketts
Delilah Ricketts
JoAnn & David Salisbury
Mike & Thao Chambers
Rebecca & Jeff Lander
Susan & Frank Mann
Sharon & Alex Rafter

Thank you, to all of our new
members, for your support of
Welch PTA! As of 8/26, we have
170 members and there are so
many All-Star Members, they
can't all fit in this space! If you
don't see your name, look for it
next month!

Sponsor the Newsletter, Advertise your business!

To help offset the cost of printing, we invite local businesses to sponsor the Welch PTA Paw Post Newsletter! Sponsorships are just \$25 for one month or \$16 an issue when sponsoring every issue through the end of the year. All sponsors will receive recognition in the newsletter. This is a great way to reach the families of our approximately 900 students. If you are interested in sponsoring our newsletter, please contact Jennifer Petrino at petrhino@cox.net or 678-423-0178.

A special thank you to Charles Browne of The UPS Store in the Publix shopping center at Bullsboro and the Bypass for offering Welch PTA discounted printing services for our newsletter! Be sure to support The UPS Store because they support Welch!

Thank You To Our Paw Post Sponsors!



Capital Awning and Tarpaulin Co. has sponsored The Paw Post for the whole year! Visit them on the web at www.capitalawning.com or call owner and Welch parent Frank Mann at 404-761-8431 for all of your custom canvas needs. Let them know the Paw Post sent you!



The Half Shell Oyster Bar & Hot Dog Shop invites you to dine with them at one of their two locations (downtown on Madison St. or Hwy 34 across from White Oak). Buy one special, get one half price with this newsletter (equal or lesser value; expires 9/30/09) Thank you Welch parents Natalie & Blaine Pitchford!



"Cutting Edge Marketing with Good "Old Fashioned" Service!"



Jeannie Doole, Realtor of Metrobrokers GMAC, has sponsored the Paw Post for the 2009-2010 school year. Call Jeannie at 404.644.9394 or send an email to Jeannie.doolle@metrobrokers.com Visit www.jeannedoole.com for all your real estate needs!