



Berry PTO Newsletter

Right Behind Our Kids, Every Day, Every Way!

October 2009

Officers

President—Christine Brammer
Vice President—Carla DeWitt
Treasurer—Charles Twitty
Secretary—Lucy Skinner

School Representatives

Principal Evans
Ryan Amore
Erin Boyd
Nancy Murphy

Standing Committees

By-Laws—Yvette Jackson
Hospitality—Dana Alexander
Membership—Palaska Powell-Warner
Publicity—Denise Watkins
Volunteer Coordinator—Marie Nenzo
Ways & Means—Mildred Alexander-Moses and Marisha Wright

Event/Activity Committees

Assemblies—Jae Johnson
Berry Gear—Anne Franos & Tia Bryant
Box Tops/Tysons—Maggie Fields and Crystal Young
Bulletin Board—Rachel Perella
Harlem Wizards Basketball Game—Monifa Tarjamo and Carla DeWitt
Pizza Fundraiser—Nataki McCowin
Dance—Chitra Sharma, Denise Knudson, and Kathy Rumsey
Family Spring Fling—Gaye Ramsey
Craft Show/Gift Wrapping—Gaye Ramsey
Coat Drive & Thanksgiving Food Drive—Jennifer Moffat

A Message from the President

Dear Berry Elementary Families, Teachers and Staff:

The Berry PTO is off to a great start for the Fall season. We would like to thank the Berry Elementary families for their awesome support during our first two events.....Spirit Night at Cold Stone Creamery and the Harlem Wizards Versus Berry Jaguars basketball game. Spirit Night brought in a profit of \$558.17 and was one of the highest profit producing Spirit Nights to date. I would like to thank Mildred Alexander-Moses and Marisha Wright for coordinating this very successful event.

The Harlem Wizards versus Berry Jaguars basketball game was also a very big success. The PTO's goal was to host a unique event where the County could come together as one for a night of entertaining family fun. We met our goal with 497 residents of Charles County purchasing tickets. There are so many volunteers to thank for the success of this event starting with Monifa Tarjamo as the PTO Basketball Game Chairperson and Carla DeWitt, the PTO Vice President for organizing this event. With the artistic help of PTO Publicity Chairperson - Denise Watkins, Monifa did an awesome job publicizing this event on the radio, in the local newspaper, the Parents Guide publication, on the County website and in a number of area schools, working diligently with the Office of the Deputy Superintendent for approval of all flyers being distributed to county schools. Carla began organizing this event in May of 2009, single handedly finding a venue and negotiating the contract with the Harlem Wizards, as well as handling the administration of the ticket sales. Both Monifa and Carla spent many weekends at area retail locations selling tickets. Hosting an event in a school other than Berry Elementary was extremely challenging but Monifa and Carla pulled it off.

Marie Nenzo, our PTO Volunteer Coordinator put together a team of 30+ PTO volunteers for this event. Mr. Leonard Rickett was responsible for acquiring the initial Berry Jaguar team with Mr. Ryan Amore stepping in to assume Team Captain responsibilities. Mr. Amore was able to secure a team of teachers from other area schools to complete the Berry Jaguars Team. For a special thank you of all PTO volunteers and teacher players see the Harlem Wizards versus Berry Jaguars note from Monifa Tarjamo in this newsletter. Volunteers - we could not have pulled this off without your support!

The Harlem Wizards versus Berry Jaguar basketball game brought in a profit for the benefit of Berry Elementary School of \$1,519.33 and this profit will be used towards paying for student assemblies this year and will subsidize the money needed to assist Berry families in need during the Thanksgiving Food Drive.

Please be on the lookout for flyers coming home with your children advertising the Coats/Hats/Mittens Drive, which will run from October 19-23, 2009. Jennifer Moffat has volunteered to be our PTO Chairperson handling this event.

Mark your calendars for the following:

October 19-23 — Coat/Hat/Mitten Drive
November 2, 2009 — PTO General Membership Meeting - 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
November 2-23 — Thanksgiving Food Drive
November 17 — Spirit Night at Chic Fil A from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

We encourage you to become a part of our team by contacting either myself at cbrammer@avalonbay.com or Marie Nenzo, our Volunteer Coordinator at nenno1@comcast.net. You can also check out our website to review PTO Meeting Minutes and upcoming meeting and event schedules at ccboe.com/Berry/PTO.

Sincerely,

Christine Brammer
President, Berry Elementary PTO

For Chairperson contact information please telephone the Berry Elementary School at 301-645-2330.

Get On The List!

The PTO is building a volunteer e-mail list that will be used whenever volunteer opportunities arise. Simply e-mail your interest to nenno1@comcast.net and we can add you to the Berry Volunteer Team e-mail list. When a program or event needs volunteers, we will contact you using this list. A special "thank you" to all the volunteers who helped with the Harlem Wizards game. If you have any questions, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Marie Nenno at 240-607-9411 or nenno1@comcast.net.

-Marie Nenno, Volunteer Coordinator

Ways N Means

We would like to thank everyone for coming out to support the PTO spirit night. This event was a huge success! We raised \$558.17 for our Berry students. Thank you for coming out to support this fundraiser. A special thanks to the volunteer scoopers, singers and greeters for the evening.

Mr. Amore, Ms. Sine, Ms. Murphy, Ms. Crowley, Ms. Shanbarger, Mr. Thompson, Ms. Cataldo, Ms. Grime, Ms. Thornton, Ms. Finnegan, Mr. Evans, Ms. Scarafille, Lucy Skinner, Chris Brammer, and Charles Twitty.

The next spirit night is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17th from 5 to 7 at Chick-fil-a on 301. We look forward to seeing you there.

-Mildred Alexander-Moses and Marisha Wright, Ways and Means Co-Chairs

Harlem Wizards vs. Berry Jaguars

The Harlem Wizards basketball event was fun and exciting for all who attended. The Berry students were talking about it for days! This event could not have been pulled off without the time and dedication of the numerous volunteers who came out to help. Thank you to Denise Watkins for getting things rolling with the multiple flier designs she graciously produced for us to advertise the event. Marie Nenno for organizing our tremendous list of volunteers. I would also like to thank those who gave their time as a PTO volunteer in one or more capacity during pre-event set up, lobby ticket sales, souvenirs sales food sales and clean up: Carla DeWitt, Sallie Gomez, Lucy Skinner, Dana Alexander, Starr Sine, Sue Scarafille, Kelly Perry and her daughter Brianna, Gaye Ramsey, Kenyel Parker, Charles Twitty, Frances Hodge, Sheverly Nail, Wendy Valentine, Carlos and Kiyona Eldridge, Andrea Sreat, Crystal McDonald, Jennifer and Danny Moffat, Robin Tolson, Jessica Cloud, Glenda Harrison, Chantell Johnson, Monica Murphy, Marc and Rachel Perella and Chris Brammer. We would like to thank Kenyel Parker who took fliers to the county fair and gave up her Sunday for Safeway sales along with many Wizards committee volunteers and parents who took fliers everywhere around Waldorf, put them in doors, put them on cars, sent them via email and even handed them out at games! Thank you to Marc and Rachel Perella for being our Wizards liaisons. Thank you to the Bozeman family who not only donated a GW basket of goodies for a door prize, but all came out to help: Mike was the referee, Taylor sang the National Anthem and Danielle was the scorekeeper. Last but not least, we would like to thank all of the teacher's that came out as Berry Jaguar players.....we could not have done this without your support -Ryan Amore, Captain (Berry), Michael Battle (Stone), Joseph Periello (Berry), Val Levi (Berry), Erin Boyd (Berry), Pamela Thornton (Berry), Marissa Ricciardi (Berry), Charles McCoy (Stoddert), Kyle Finley (North Point), Matthew Richards (Davis), Justin Travis (Davis), Dale Lamberth (Stone), Andrew Schalk (Stone) and Courtney Gibbons (Davis).

Thank you again to everyone who volunteered, we worked hard, the kids had fun, we made money for Berry and we left Davis Middle School in the same condition as we found it! Priceless.

-Monifa Tarjamo, Harlem Wizards Chairperson

Berry Gear

It's getting chilly outside.....time for a Berry sweatshirt? Look for order forms in your child's folder monthly, in the school foyer or a printable attachment from the PTO website. Shirts are ordered about the 10th of each month for delivery before Spirit Day on the last Friday of each month. Next Spirit Day is October 30th. The class with the most black and gold will earn the Berry Banner!

-Anne Franos, Berry Gear Chairperson

Box Tops

Thank you Berry Families for your outstanding support to the Box Tops program. The first contest has ended and we'll soon be finding out which lucky classroom will enjoy the Pizza Party treats along with the bragging rights for the new Box Tops Traveling Trophy, so stay tune and good luck! To learn more about Box Tops visit www.boxtops4education.com and become a member. For each new member Berry Elementary earns 5 Bonus Box Tops from now until December 31st. Thank you for collecting!

-Maggie Fields and Crystal Young, Box Tops Chairpersons
