



September 2009

Berry PTO Newsletter

Right Behind Our Kids, Every Day, Every Way!

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—Vacant
Hospitality—Dana Alexander
Membership—Chris Brammer
(temporary)
Publicity—Denise Watkins
Volunteer Coordinator—Marie
Nenno
Ways & Means—Mildred
Alexander-Moses &
Marisha Wright

Event/Activity Committees

Assemblies—Jonata Johnson-
Hertz
Berry Gear—Anne Franos &
Tia Bryant
Family Spring Fling—Gaye
Ramsey
Box Tops—Maggie Fields &
Crystal Young
Bulletin Board—Rachel Perella
Harlem Wizards—Monifa
Tarjamo & Carla
DeWitt
Pizza—Vacant
Dance—Vacant
Craft Show/Gift Wrapping—
Vacant
Food Drive—Vacant
Coat/Thanksgiving Food
Drive—Jennifer Moffat
Spring Fair—Gaye Ramsey

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

A Message from the President

Dear Berry Elementary Families, Teachers and Staff:

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! I would like to introduce myself as the returning 2009-2010 Berry Elementary PTO President. Carla DeWitt will serve as Vice President, along with Lucy Skinner as Secretary and Charles Twitty as Treasurer.

The PTO has many exciting new events and fundraisers planned for the benefit of the Berry students and staff this school year. Please take some time to read this newsletter to become familiar with some of our PTO Chairpersons and upcoming schedule of events.

Berry's Principal, Mr. Darryl Evans, has provided the PTO with the following wish list that the PTO will work towards purchasing this year, with our fundraising profits:

- 1) Dibbles Palm Pilots for 4th & 5th grade \$5,000;
- 2) Smart Boards 10 for \$7,500 or the LCD carts also required with the boards;
- 3) Staff lounge furniture;
- 4) Berry Jaguar Mascot costume \$1,000.

In addition to these wish list items, the PTO regularly sponsors school assemblies, food and coats drives, staff requests and staff luncheons throughout the year with our fundraising funds.

By now you have received our *Harlem Wizards versus Berry Jaguars Basketball Game* flyer. This represents the only large scale fundraiser that the Berry PTO will host for the Fall season, aside from our upcoming Spirit Nights. Please see our ad below and come out and support Berry Elementary!

In closing, we encourage you to become a part of the PTO team by contacting either myself at cbrammer@avalonbay.com or Marie Nenno, our Volunteer Coordinator at nenno1@comcast.net.

Please mark your calendars for the following:

September 8, 2009 – Volunteer Orientation – 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. (Berry)
September 8, 2009 – PTO General Membership Meeting – 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. (Berry)
September 10, 2009 – Open House – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (Berry)
September 22, 2009 – Spirit Night at Cold Stone Creamery – 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
October 6, 2009 – Harlem Wizards versus Berry Jaguars – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Davis Middle School)

Sincerely,

Chris Brammer

President, Berry Elementary PTO

From our Harlem Wizards Game Chairperson

The Berry Elementary PTO is planning a fun filled family event. On Tuesday, October 6th from 6-8pm, the Harlem Wizards, one of the greatest basketball show-team organizations, will come down to show off their tricks and alley oops against the Berry Elementary teachers. This event is guaranteed to make you laugh and cheer for your Berry teachers. Advanced tickets are \$8.00 for ages 11 and under and \$10.00 for ages 12 and up, Berry students and their families have exclusive ticket rights for the first week of sales through September 4th. The Harlem Wizards versus the Berry Jaguars show-down will be held at Davis Middle school. Remember to return your form as soon as possible. Families from all over the County are expected to come out to enjoy this historic event. For ticket information or questions contact Monifa Tarjamo @ 301 760 9153 or timeflies@yahoo.com.

From our Berry Gear Chairperson, Anne Franos and Co-Chair, Tia Bryant

Berry Gear! Get your Berry Gear here! Parents, the PTO has a new Berry Gear design this year. We have also added car magnets! Show your spirit and purchase a T-Shirt, sweatshirt, polo shirt, etc. available in youth and adults sizes. Inventory will be available at the Open House on September 10, 2009 and order forms are also available in the school lobby on a daily basis with orders being placed once a month.

From our Ways N Means Chairperson

The PTO spirit night fundraiser will be on Tuesday, September 22 from 5 to 8 at Cold Stone Creamery. Wouldn't you love to have your teacher scoop your favorite ice cream treat? Students will earn Berry Bucks for attending this event. Please bring your family and friends to support this event.

From our Hospitality Chairperson, Dana Alexander

The PTO sponsored a great Welcome Back Luncheon on August 18th for the Berry staff with food provided by Apple Spice Junction of La Plata. Thanks to Carla Dewitt, Frances Hodges, Lucy Skinner and Anne Franos for volunteering their time to assist with the luncheon.

HELP WANTED - A WAY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

From our Volunteer Coordinator, Marie Nenno:

Let's Work Together

Join the Berry Team of volunteers. The PTO recognizes how precious your time is, as we work together as a school and a community we can lighten the load. Look for our volunteer survey and select an opportunity to make a difference at Berry and in your student's education. Remember research clearly shows that when parents are involved in their children's education, the children are more likely to: earn better grades, score higher on tests, attend school regularly, have better social skills, show improved behavior, complete homework, have a better attitude toward school and finally graduate from high school and continue their education. *A great way to start is to join us Tuesday, September 8th for the Volunteer Orientation.*

PTO By-Laws Chairperson

Help develop, review and maintain the existing bylaws and assist with amendments as needed for a functioning PTO.

Pizza Fundraiser Chairperson

Organize publicity to go out to students 1/5/10. Tally orders and complete spreadsheet to be faxed to fundraising company on 1/19/10. Organize volunteers for order pickup on 1/28/10.

Dance Chairperson

Coordinate a school dance to be held on March 12, 2009. Solicit donations from area grocery stores for food and raffle prizes.

PLEASE CONTACT MARIE NENNO FOR MORE INFORMATION at nenno1@comcast.net or 240-607-9411.

IMPORTANT - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - HELP THE BERRY TEAM - Harlem Wizards versus Berry Jaguars - Volunteers are needed for set-up, the concession and souvenir stands, ticket sales, etc. Please contact Chairperson Monifa Tarjamo at timeflies@yahoo.com for more information.