

# THE BEE

THE PLACE TO BEE | September 23, 2011 | morrisbrandon.com

**In This Edition:** [Your PTA dollars at work](#)  
[Letter from the Principal](#)  
[5<sup>th</sup> Grade Car Wash tomorrow](#)  
[School Spirit event tomorrow](#)  
[Change for Charlie](#)  
[Wellness Week](#)  
[Walk to School Day](#)  
[Media Center News](#)  
[Book Fair continues online](#)  
[Brandon Jamboree](#)  
[Worker bees needed for Jamboree](#)  
[Look who BEElieves in Brandon](#)  
[Little Green Thumbs](#)  
[Read-A-Thon in November](#)  
[Need to get something in The Bee?](#)  
[Upcoming Key Dates](#)  
[Brandon Business Partners](#)

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## Your PTA dollars at Work...

*Did you know that your PTA dollars fund the new Community Enrichment Program at Morris Brandon? This program features information sessions for parents, held throughout the year, which focus on important topics relevant and appropriate for elementary school students such as bullying, internet safety, and variations in learning styles. The sessions are free and open to the entire Brandon community as well as the general public!*

## **Letter from the Principal:**

There has been no final decision from APS regarding exact numbers for the leveling of classroom instructional staff across the district. A final decision regarding the loss or gain of instructional positions is expected no later than the beginning of October. We will send out notification as soon as we receive the word. While the leveling of positions throughout the district is still necessary and Brandon may yet lose staff, our losses should not be as severe as we were initially told.

If there were room in the eBee, I know that every Brandon staff member would want to extend a big THANK YOU to our parent community for standing up and speaking out against the proposed additional increase in class sizes. With some very rational and considerate emails and phone calls, you prevented the effort to increase already larger class sizes, stopping the reassignment of 6 teachers and 3 paraprofessionals to other schools. Last week you took effectual steps to voice your concerns and you were heard by those making the decisions. On behalf of the Brandon staff, thank you again for looking out for our school!

*Sincerely,  
Karen Evans, Principal*

***“It takes two to speak the truth: one to speak, and another to hear.” Henry David Thoreau***

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## **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Car Wash is tomorrow!**

**Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Main Campus**

This is our first big 5<sup>th</sup> grade fundraiser of the year! Please support our 5<sup>th</sup> graders and come by to have your car washed.

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## **School Spirit event tomorrow (9/24/11):**

After you visit the 5<sup>th</sup> grade car wash or on your way there, head over to **Jersey Mike's (Howell Mill)** for a fun-filled School Spirit event from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Invite your friends and family to join you in supporting a Brandon Business Partner as they support our school by donating a portion of the event proceeds directly to the PTA!

And, parents – this next one is just for you! Grab a friend/spouse/co-worker and don't miss our very first **Café at Pharr** spirit lunch at their Chattahoochee Avenue location **next Friday (9/30/11)** from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

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## **Change for Charlie next Week**

Many of you know Charlie Beckham. Charlie is a third grader who loves baseball, Legos and reading.....Charlie is also battling cancer. Each day next week, September 26th - 30th, volunteers will be collecting **Change for Charlie** in Brandon's carpool and bus lines (until 7:55 a.m.) to raise money for Blue Skies in honor of Charlie. By making a donation to Blue Skies, you will help send a family facing childhood cancer on a week long beach retreat - to laugh, play, rest and reconnect. Your child may donate any amount of change or cash or a check made out to Blue Skies (for the purposes of a tax deduction). There will also be "Blue Hearts" available during morning drop off for students who wish to share words of encouragement with Charlie.

**[Link to Change for Charlie/Blue Skies](#)**

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## **BEE Well**

### **Wellness Week - October 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>**

The Wellness Committee needs the help of many worker bees during Wellness Week. Parent volunteers are needed to promote/communicate the theme for the week, "Zip Code for Health," in the school lobbies during morning and afternoon time slots (wearing theme related attire). Volunteers are also needed to help source the following items to be donated:

- Apples, oranges, single serve boxed raisins, single serve bags of baby carrots or other fruits or vegetables (serving approx. 1,200)
- Bottled Waters (approx. 1,200)
- Inflatables or other types of marketing displays for fruits, vegetables or bottled water
- Adult-size fruit, vegetable and water-bottle costumes

The committee is also looking for volunteer fitness instructors to hold exercise classes for students during recess during the week. There are so many fun and meaningful ways to get involved with Wellness Week so please reach out to our Parker Sessions ([pdsessions@bellsouth.net](mailto:pdsessions@bellsouth.net)) or Fredda Hicks ([freddahicks@yahoo.com](mailto:freddahicks@yahoo.com)) to volunteer.

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## **Walk to School (WTS) Day** **Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> (Rain or Shine)**

Let's get moving Morris Brandon – walking to school is a great way to increase your child's daily exercise, save money on gas, and help our environment! On WTS Day, signs will be posted throughout our area to increase awareness of this very special event and promote the safety of our Bees buzzing around the neighborhood. So, throw on your WTS t-shirt, grab your flashlight if needed, and hoof it over to school for stickers and prizes. Walking home from school is also encouraged! A note about **T-Shirts**: Use the link below to register for one of a limited number of free WTS shirts graciously provided by Brandon Business Partner, Big Frog Custom T-shirts. Prior to the event, the shirts will be delivered to the homerooms of those students who have pre-registered.

[Link to WTS t-shirt form](#)

**7:30 a.m. meeting places (for those who live too far away to walk and don't require the campus to campus shuttle):**

### ***To the Main Campus:***

- Corner of Woodley and Howell Mill
- Trinity Church - corner of Moores Mill and Howell Mill
- Dawn View Lane - west of main campus off West Wesley
- Castlewood neighborhood - triangle park at corner of Edinboro and Castlewood

### ***To the Primary Center:***

- Corner of West Wesley & Westminster Walk
- Corner of Margaret Mitchell Drive & Peachtree Battle
- Corner of Sequoyah and West Wesley (park on Sequoyah Drive)

Note that campus to campus shuttles will be running between the Primary Center and the Main Campus but only from 7:25 to 7:35 a.m. so don't be late.

Questions? Contact Jennifer Rosenfeld ([JenRosenfeld@comcast.net](mailto:JenRosenfeld@comcast.net)) or Charlotte Vicens ([cavicens@yahoo.com](mailto:cavicens@yahoo.com))

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## Media Center News:



### Primary Center

**Claudia Zurbrick (Mrs. Z), Media Specialist**

Registration for the **Birthdays Book Club (BBC)** at the PC Media Center is still taking place! The BBC is a wonderful book dedication program in honor of your child's birthday. The BBC registration form can be found on the school website. Media skills this week include teaching kindergarten classes, through storytelling, the consequences of making bad decisions with reference to a fractured version of The Three Little Pigs and the poem, "The Little Old Lady." First graders will learn to use the inquiry method to determine whether a book is fiction or nonfiction; using alligator books! Did you know the Primary Center Media Center has a website? Log on to <http://srt4.atlantapublicschools.us/175620624115337393/site/default.asp>.

**Are you a guest or mystery reader for your child's class?** Listening to literature models good reading and is a chance to expose children to great literature. It is a much more rewarding experience for the child if the reading is accompanied by engaging discussions that assist in the development of important critical thinking skills. Here are some tips:

1. Read the book ahead of time.
2. Prepare questions and encourage children to predict outcomes.
3. Be sure the book is subject appropriate with vivid, clear illustrations.
4. If the class responds to your book, when you introduce it, that they read it before, don't panic! The best answer is, "but you haven't heard me read it."
5. As you are reading, vary your pace for emphasis.
6. Prepare to read a second book if there is time remaining.

### Main Campus

**Lindsay Waddell, Media Specialist**

After a successful book fair, we are open again for check out and classes. Students at the main campus have been working on various lessons in the media center such as dictionary/guide word skills, parts of a book, website authority and summarizing skills. Second grade is having a great time illustrating different books with a "Wordle" - a website that makes word clouds ([www.wordle.net](http://www.wordle.net)). Stop by to see their work displayed in the media center. Also, the **Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl** has started. The first meeting was held for interested 4th and 5th graders last Thursday. So, there are some busy readers around Brandon. For more information about the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl, visit the main campus media center website at <http://www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/domain/2017>.

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## **Book Fair continues online:**

If you missed the Fall Book Fair this week, you can still visit the online Scholastic Book Fair at <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/cptoolkit/publish/mbrandon> to place orders benefiting Morris Brandon through October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The online fair (which includes free shipping for orders shipped to the school) is a great way for you and your child to create and send wish lists to friends and family and has the added benefit of an expanded book selection for all ages (pre-school to adult).

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## **Brandon Jamboree**

The Brandon Jamboree is THE Place to BEE! This year, the Jamboree will be held on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. (rain date will be Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>). Avoid long ticket lines at the event and pre-order your wristbands today – the deadline for doing so is **Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>**. Use the link below to access the form.

[\*\*Link to Wristband Order Form\*\*](#)

## **Worker Bees needed for the Jamboree:**

We need lots of them! One-hour shifts start at 12:30 p.m. and end at 5:30 p.m. We need 2 volunteers for each shift – 10 volunteers per class. Please email Parker Jones ([parkerharry@comcast.net](mailto:parkerharry@comcast.net)) with your preferred time. It is a fun & easy way to get involved.

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## **Look who BEElieves in Brandon!**



BEElieve in Brandon

Thank you to all of our Bee Fund 2011-2012 donors so far. Decals and directories for those who have pledged or donated \$25 or more are coming soon! As of September 15, with 35% of families and 30% of teachers and staff participating, we have raised just over \$100,000! This is great news but we have a long way to go to meet our 100% participation goal so please visit the school website today to make your pledge or donation.

**Use the link below to see who BEElieves in Brandon thus far. Is your name on the list???**

[\*\*Link to Bee Fund Donors\*\*](#)

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### *BEE Green Trivia*

*Water is the only substance found on earth that occurs naturally in three forms. True or False?*

*Answer at end of eBee*

### **BEE Green - Little Green Thumbs:**

The BEE Green Organic Garden at The Primary Center is in full swing this fall. Many of the classes have been planting seeds there during the last three weeks. The children have several things growing right now - lettuce, spinach, radishes, arugula, cauliflower, cabbage, peas, kale, and several types of herbs. The garden includes six raised beds, two of which are at wheelchair height, so that all Primary Center students can comfortably tend to plants. If you haven't been over to see the garden, please stop by. It's located behind the school; adjacent to the cafeteria. More plans are in store for the garden and we're always in need of additional volunteers. Later this fall we'll be installing additional landscaping, as well as fruit trees and shrubs. If you would like to help, please contact Tom Johnson at [tbaxterjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:tbaxterjohnson@gmail.com)

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### **Read-A-Thon coming in November!**

Mark your calendars, bookmarks, and library cards for **November 3<sup>rd</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>**. Last year, the Morris Brandon RAT raised nearly \$30,000. We hope to exceed that number this year; achieving our goal of nearly \$40,000! As always, the committee is working diligently to make this year's event as smooth and stress free for all involved while promoting a community of learning, literacy, and love of reading! Our local visiting authors, **Angie Patnode**, author of Atlanta Smiles, and **Jennifer Bouani**, author of Tyler and his Solve-A-Matic Machine, will sign their books and discuss their writing process with Brandon students. These books are now available for check-out in the Brandon Media Centers so please encourage your child to read them in advance!

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### **Need to get something in The BEE?**

Please email BEE articles to Melanie Faser at [faserm@bellsouth.net](mailto:faserm@bellsouth.net). The BEE is published each Friday. The deadline for submitting material is the immediately preceding Friday by 5:00 p.m.

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| <b><u>Upcoming Key Dates:</u></b>                           | <b>LOC</b>    | <b>Date</b>              | <b>Start Time</b> |
|---|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Car Wash                              | MC            | September 24             | 9:00 a.m.         |
| Spirit Event – Jersey Mike’s                                | Off<br>Campus | September 24             | 11:00 a.m.        |
| Spirit Event – Café at Pharr                                | Off<br>Campus | September 30             | 11:00 a.m.        |
| Wellness Week Begins  | BOTH          | October 3rd              | N/A               |
| Walk to School Day  | BOTH          | October 5th              | 7:00 a.m.         |
| Spirit Event – Menchie’s (West Paces)                       | Off<br>Campus | October 5th              | 2:30 p.m.         |
| Spirit Night – Johnny’s Pizza (Chattahoochee Avenue)        | Off<br>Campus | October 6th              | 5:00 p.m.         |
| No School/Teacher Work Day                                  | BOTH          | October 10 <sup>th</sup> | N/A               |
| No School/Teacher Work Day                                  | BOTH          | October 11th             | N/A               |
| Spirit Event – Café at Pharr                                | Off<br>Campus | October 14th             | 11:00 a.m.        |
| Brandon Jamboree  | MC            | October 16th             | 1:00 p.m.         |
| Spirit Night – Willy’s (Howell Mill, West Paces Ferry)      | Off<br>Campus | October 18th             | 5:00 p.m.         |
| Spirit Event – Jersey Mike’s                                | Off<br>Campus | October 22nd             | 11:00 a.m.        |
| Community Enrichment Program Speaker Series – Part II       | MC            | October 24               | 7:00 p.m.         |
| PTA – General Meeting                                       | PC            | October 25th             | 9:30 a.m.         |
| Spirit Night – Chick-fil-A (Howell Mill, West Paces Ferry)  | Off<br>Campus | October 27th             | 5:00 p.m.         |
| Spirit Event - Baskin Robbins Fall Event (Peachtree Battle) | Off<br>Campus | October 28th             | 2:00 p.m.         |
| Read-a-Thon Begins  | BOTH          | November 3rd             | N/A               |
|   |               |                          |                   |

Answer to the Bee Green Trivia Question: True. Water is indeed the only substance found on earth that occurs naturally in three ways - as a solid (ice, snow), liquid (water), and gas (steam).

**Brandon Business Partners generously support us.**

**Brandon families, please support them!**

*The Coca-Cola Company, Peachtree Battle Shopping Center, Landscaping by Yardera, Nellya Fencers, Beacham & Company Realtors (Cia Cummings, Matt Linginfelter), Big Frog Custom T-Shirts, Café At Pharr, Chick-fil-A (Howell Mill Road), Jersey Mike's, Johnny's Pizza, Menchie's, Mighty Jumps, One Stop Business Services, Publix, S&S Rug Cleaners, Swoozie's, The Gym at Peachtree Presbyterian Church, West Stride, Willy's Mexicana Grill, 1-800- GOT JUNK?*