



Smoke Signals

Cherokee Bend School

Learn More . . . Do More



Meet and Greet - Monday, August 15th

CBS Auditorium

Welcome back! Everyone at CBS is gearing up for Meet and Greet and the first day of school. We hope your summer has been filled with plenty of smiles and lots of rest. The schedule for Meet and Greet is included below with a general checklist of activities and registration opportunities.

- 8:15 - 9:00 am **New Family Orientation, Grades 1-6 (Library)**
- 9:00 - 9:45 am **Classroom Visits - Last Name A-M**
- 9:45 - 10:15 am **Teacher/Staff break (allow parking lot to empty)**
- 10:15 - 11:00 am **Classroom Visits - Last Name N-Z**

- ✓ Verify Directory Information
- ✓ Purchase sportswear
- ✓ Lunch Account Payments
- ✓ Helping Hands sign-up
- ✓ Extended Day Program registration
- ✓ Karate registration
- ✓ Knight Chess School registration
- ✓ Carpool
- ✓ FOAC
- ✓ Rebate Program Information
- ✓ Boosterthon Information
- ✓ Safety Patrol sign-up

Continued on page 2 . . .



Ringing the Bell

From the desk of Principal Betsy Bell



Dear Parents,
The doors are just about ready to be wide open for learning as we welcome you and your children to the 2011-2012 school year. We are all so excited, the countdown is on!

Our teachers and staff have worked very hard over the summer to prepare effective, challenging, and engaging lessons for the most incredible students in the whole world. Our teachers

have attended many exciting professional learning opportunities this summer from Quality Questioning and Assessment Practices, Engaging Work for the 21st Century Learners, Math Materials Training, to our famous Technology Conference. By making learning our focus, those who are responsible for professional learning have been able to concentrate their efforts on

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CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

- Aug 14 - Sportsweat Preview Party from 3-5 pm
- Aug 15 - Meet and Greet
- Aug 16 - First Day of School
- Aug 16 - 19 Kindergarten Dismissal @ 2pm
- Aug 17 - Room Mother Meeting @ 9am
- Aug 18 - Kindergarten Parent Q&A @ 1:15 pm
- Aug 19- Muffins for New Moms at 8:30 am (grades 1-6)
- Aug 21- New Family Picnic (Grades 1-6)
- Aug 23 - Back-to-School Night
- Aug 26- PTO Girlapalooza @ 7pm
- Sept 5 - Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
- Sept 7 - School Pictures
- Sept 9 - 10 - NERF Weekend

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Meet and Greet continued...



Please come to the auditorium before heading to your child's classroom.

We are fortunate to have some of the 6th grade Ambassadors scattered throughout the school to help you find your way if needed.

Review information on this page and throughout the remainder of the newsletter to make sure you don't forget anything to be ready for the first day of school.

We look forward to seeing you at Meet and Greet. Thank you to all who have helped get ready for this day!

Meredith Cashio
Dena Berte
Meet and Greet Chairs

Contact Information

Verify Directory Information while at Meet and Greet. Please contact **Stephanie Carothers** at sscarothers@charter.net with any questions. Also be sure to email any address, phone additions or changes to **Donna Phillips** at phillipsd@mtnbrook.k12.al.us.



Carpool

Please contact Dena Berte if you have changes to your carpool that were not submitted during Registration last spring. Hang tags will be distributed at Meet and Greet for:

- * New Kindergarteners
- * Transfer Students (Grades 1-6)
- * Returning Students who requested carpool changes

Everyone is encouraged to reuse current hangtags; however, you may contact Dena Berte if you would like to pick up a replacement at Meet and Greet.

denaberte@gmail.com



Lunchroom Payments



Be sure to pre-pay your child's lunch account to start the year.

- * Pay by credit card on PayPams
<http://www.mtnbrook.k12.al.us/cms/PayPAMS/4328.html>
- * Pay by check at Meet and Greet. Checks should be made payable to CBS lunchroom.

FOAC ROCKS!



The FOAC Committee has a few exciting new additions up our sleeves for the start of this new year, just as Mr. Hendrick always has new and engaging activities for this program. Please check out our table at Meet and Greet. We have cool car magnets as well as many other fun items for you to show your support. New this year, we are offering a sharp, black FOAC baseball cap. These are great for campout weekends, as well as for the 5th-grade Tremont trip. You can also have your child's name monogrammed on the back! Young or old, you will want one of these great caps. Make sure you bring an extra check or two. As always, thank you so much for your support of this wonderful program. Your donations help purchase ropes and harnesses, upkeep the ropes course, as well as purchase gifts for the teachers who participate in the 5th and 6th grade campouts. Please visit the FOAC website to view campout videos and read more about the program:
<http://www.mtnbrook.k12.al.us/cms/FOAC>

Helping Hands



Helping Hands volunteers oversee our students during lunch so teachers can have a much deserved break. Our volunteers say they really enjoy the opportunity to get to know their children's classmates better. Because the time commitment is so little (just a few hours once a month, either for one semester or both) we need a lot of volunteers to make it work! We need you! Please come by our table at Meet and Greet and sign up for a shift, or email [Beverly Ward at BwardLPC@aol.com](mailto:BeverlyWard@aol.com).

Karate



Karate helps teach self-discipline, respect, self-defense, focus, and balance, to name a few things. Classes are held at CBS after school on Mondays AND Wednesdays, 3:00-4:00 for Beginners, and 4:15-5:15 for Advanced. Students may join anytime during the year. Call 856-2503 or email cheryls@ikfkarate.com for spaces available and registration information, or drop by our table during Meet and Greet.

The Knight School



Our super-fun, high-energy CBS School chess team, coached by Dr. Brooks and The Knight School, has grown so much that we now meet two different times each week! The Knight School brought home nine state championships last year, and our chess party was awesome! You may sign up to take the Wednesday class or the Thursday class. To join, contact Dr. Brooks at 823-5715 or dbrookspd@hotmail.com. Visit The Knight School online at www.theknightschool.com.



Welcome Kindergarteners

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Welcome to Kindergarten

We are thrilled to have your entire family here at CBS! Here are a few reminders for you special first-timers.

- ✓ The first day of school you will park your car and walk your Kindergartener to the Auditorium where they will meet up with their classmates and teacher and make that big march to their room together. This is a great time to take those candid photos and plaster a big smile on your face as you wave them on their way.
- ✓ Dismissal for all kindergarteners is as 2:00 the first week of school. This allows the children and parents to get used to the carpool routine.
- ✓ If you have not turned in your child's blue immunization forms to the school nurse, please do so.
- ✓ Review the note from the nurse in this newsletter on medication needs and authorization forms.
- ✓ Make plans to attend the Kindergarten Parents Q & A on August 18th at 1:15pm.
- ✓ Make plans to attend Back to School Night on August 23rd. More about that later in this newsletter.

Kindergarten Moms' Coffee Sip N Sob -or- Sip N Celebrate . . . You decide!

Please join us for coffee and muffins after your kindergartener sets out for their first day of school! We will enjoy exchanging fun stories of their start on this new journey at CBS.

Date: Tuesday, August 16
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Location: 3309 East Briarcliff Road
 Home of Stacy & Perry White
Questions: Stacy White at stacy.white@childrensal.org



Outfit Your Chief in Style



It's back-to-school time and that means a brand new line of Cherokee Bend Sportswear is here. This year we have many new styles avail-

able, something to suit the taste of every Chief. The year 1969 wasn't just the Age of Aquarius, it was the year CBS was founded, and we are celebrating with a groovy tie-dye, perfect for all residents of "The Bend." We have also added brand name Under Armour shirts and shorts for those CBS Chiefs who like their schoolwear to double as workout wear. For our girliest of girls, there are fabulous confections of a shirt in the palest of pinks and the prettiest of purples. There is even an iconic Cherokee Chief shirt that is a classic in every way. And it doesn't end at T-shirts and shorts; there are CBS notebooks, flashlights and the back-by-popular demand

Tervis Tumblers, this year in the larger 20-oz. size. All of these also make perfect birthday and teacher gifts!

We will be selling Sportswear at Meet and Greet, or skip the lines and come shop the Preview Party- Sunday, August 14, from 3-5 p.m. at Alison Scott's house, 3772 Rockhill Rd. Then, wear your CBS Sportswear to Monday's Meet and Greet and receive a special treat from the Sportswear table.

Just can't wait to see it all? Check out all of the new styles here:
<http://cherokeebend.blogspot.com/>

Mandi Smith T and Alison Scott
 Sportswear Chairs

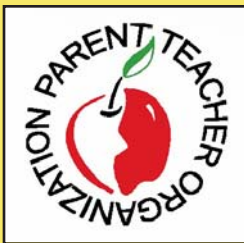
Cherokee Bend
 Sportswear

MAMMA MIA!
 FOR MAMMAS ONLY
Girl-a-Palooza
 a party to benefit
 Cherokee Bend School
 Friday, August 26, 2011
 7:00 p.m.
 *3236 Brookwood Road
 Mountain Brook, AL 35223
 Hosted By
 Ruth Berry, Lisa Bowling,
 helley Hunt, Tricia Irby,
 *Kimberly Long, Alison Scott,
 Ann Walthall, Gigi Watson,
 Stacy White and
 Lane Woodke

Cub Scouts



Cub Scout Pack 86 welcomes first grade and older boys as new scouts. Pack 86 meets monthly as a pack (ages 1st - 5th grade) at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, and dens also meet for monthly activities for their age group. **Cub Scout sign-up will be on Thursday, August 18th from 6:30 - 7:30 pm at St. Luke's.** Yearly dues are \$100. If you are interested in finding out more about Pack 86 activities, please email Cubmaster Sam Kent at rotecake@gmail.com.



CBS PTO Council

Truth be told, not every new idea that comes from the CBS PTO started here at CBS. Thanks to the PTO Council, the Mtn. Brook PTOs get a chance every month to exchange ideas and learn from one another. The PTO Council is composed of the PTO Presidents from the seven schools in the Mtn Brook School District. Three PTO presidents from the previous year remain on the PTO Council to serve as officers. This year the Council members are:

- Tracy Bragg (Pres.)
- Crawford Baumgarner (Legislative VP)
- Amy Knight (Secretary/Treasurer)
- Amy Roberts (CBS)
- Kaye Emack (CE)
- Bridget Sikora (BWF)
- Tzena Gaudin (MBE)
- Elisabeth Branch (MBJH)
- Meg Hightower (MBHS).

Dicky Barlow, Mtn. Brook Superintendent, is an important part of the monthly meetings and keeps the Council updated on any school-related events and decisions at the system or even state level. In addition to increasing communication and building relationships across the schools, the Council also coordinates the Expressions Contest each year and hosts a Legislative Forum where local and state congressional representatives address issues related to children and education.

The PTO Council has proven to be an effective collaboration to save the schools money (such as the PTA to PTO conversion) and allow our PTOs to voice needs and suggestions. While, Cherokee Bend takes pride in our unique culture and traditions, we're grateful for the valuable resources provided by our sister schools and the PTO Council.

Immunizations



Please have your 6th-grade students (11-12 year olds) immunized with the required booster for Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Whooping Cough) **AND TURN IN YOUR UPDATED IMMUNIZATION FORM.**

Back-to-School Night

Tuesday, August 23rd 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Back-to-School Night is an opportunity for all Cherokee Bend parents to hear curriculum plans and classroom expectations for the year. Make plans for your kids to stay home that evening. This is a great way for parents to meet and connect with all of your children's teachers in one evening!

NEW THIS YEAR: Parents will report directly to their first classroom. There will not be an opening convocation or PTO meeting. A short welcome broadcast will be aired in the classroom with remarks from Mrs. Bell and Mr. Barlow as well as our 6th grade Broadcast Team.

SCHEDULE

- 5:30 Classroom Orientation Session 1**
 - Visits for parents with 6th Grade children must occur during this session
 - 6th Grade will meet in the Auditorium
 - All other grades, including 5th Grade, will proceed to their classrooms
- 6:30 Dismiss to second classroom**
 - If you only have one child at CBS, then you are dismissed
- 6:35 Classroom Orientation Session 2**
- 7:30 Dismissal**



Sixth Grade Parents

A big year awaits your child!

The Sixth-Grade Representatives and their committee have a fun-filled year planned for the Graduating class of 2012! Parents of 6th Graders will need to provide pictures for the Graduation posters and DVDs at "Back-to-School Night" on August 23rd as described at the right.

Questions? Email us:
 Joanna Hufham at jdhufham@yahoo.com
 Laura Barron at laurabarron@charter.net



DVD Pictures Due at Back-to-School Night

- HARD-COPY PHOTOS (4 x 6) of your sixth grader
- Baby Picture
 - Kindergarten Picture (Candid, not school picture)
 - Halloween picture from the early years
 - Candid Toddler Picture
 - Extra candid picture (your choice of grade, event)

PICTURES IN DIGITAL DISC FORMAT of the above five photos as well as any individual or group shots (Kindergarten through Fifth Grade). May include CBS events such as field trips, class parties, Carnival, Fall Festival, etc., or any candid photos you may have.





Volunteer Hall of Fame

From the desk of PTO P resident, Amy Roberts



Let's celebrate our children, our faculty, our community . . . our education!
Summer has been a busy time around the Bend! Chief Thanks to:

Fundraising

- Tracy Bragg for restructuring our Chief Sponsor program and raising a record amount of support for the Bend.
- Alison Scott and Mandi Smith T for designing our fabulous new sportswear line and for using an innovative marketing approach through our very own CBS Sportswear blog.

Just for our Kids!

- Jamie Blattman, Beth Dean, Ashley Ferguson, and Rebecca Goodson for planning cool treats to promote our message that "FOAC ROCKS!"
- Beverly Ward for coordinating and organizing a host of "Helping Hands" to assist our children in the cafeteria all year long.

School Community Events

- Dena Berte and Meredith Cashio for their innovation and detailed preparation in planning our efficient and enjoyable Meet and Greet.
- Jackie Breland, Edith Lyon, and Susan Yarbrow for their many ideas to make our new families feel informed, acclimated, and comfortable.
- Dena Berte and Jenny Gaiser for supplying a little treat to welcome each of our incoming kindergarteners.

Communications

- Lori Allen for her design creativity and Julie Gillis for her editorial expertise in publishing our attractive and informative Smoke Signals.
- Mae Mae Kracke for her prompt attention in compiling information for our school directory.
- Stephanie Carothers for keeping us in touch over the summer and for sending out the much-anticipated class lists.

General Support

- Libba Vaughan and Ann Walthall for developing a landscape plan to give our grounds a fresh, new look and for maintaining the planters to make our school entrance look so beautiful.
- Isabel Corley, Betsy Byars, and Beth Hinson (our wonderful treasurers) for their attention to detail and great organization in preparing budgets and financial statements for the coming school year.
- Heather Brock and Natalie Sansom for organizing the delivery of school supplies to every classroom. And thanks to their team: Betsy Byars, Jackson Dewine, Grace Lanier, Connor Morgan, Lorrie Parker, Jake Sansom, Shelton Thompson, and Bailey and Natalie Womack.
- Dena Berte for coordinating carpool changes, procedures and hangtags.

Faculty Support

- Allison Weil for contacting our Room Mothers and sharing best practices for organizing events and communicating effectively.
- Dede Moore and Stacy White for giving each of our wonderful teachers a treat to welcome them back to school.
- Laura Barron and Joanna Hufham for coordinating our 6th-grade committee and planning an amazing year for our kids.

SCHOOL IS POOL!



Thank you, PTO!

Our rising 5th-grade class donated this beautiful collective piece last May in appreciation to our PTO. It is proudly displayed in the stairwell connecting the 5th grade classrooms. Students will enjoy and remember this burst of sunshine for years to come!





Who's Celebrating?

Recent & Upcoming Birthdays include:

June Birthdays:

- 4th - Cheryl Bowman, Bookkeeper
- 11th - April Cartee, 4th Grade
- 12th - Lisa Ector, Lunch Manager
- 13th - Kathy Hoskins, Media Center
- 22nd - Laurie Fuentes, 6th Grade
- 24th - Amy Abbot, PAGE
- 28th - Shana Williams, Nurse
- 29th - Robyn Gaut, 1st Grade

July Birthdays:

- 1st - Miriam Sokol, Physical Ed
- 6th - Grovetta White, Lunchroom
- 9th - Betsey Williams, Spanish
- 11th - Beth Dean, 3rd Grade
- 18th - Alicia Hunsberger, Special Ed
- 22nd - Diane Hilburn, Special Ed
- 25th - Scott Garrison, Custodian

August Birthdays:

- 1st - Shannon Colquitt, Counselor
- 23rd - Suzy Brown, 1st Grade
- 24th - Lizzie LeBeau, Sp Ed Aide

Community News



Be sure to keep up with the latest events in our community at the chamber website:

www.welcometomountainbrook.com

Spartans Helping Spartans Tornado Disaster Relief

In the days after the horrific tornadoes of April 27, 2011, representatives of Mountain Brook City, Mountain Brook Chamber of Commerce, Mountain Brook City Schools, PTO, and Emmet O'Neal Library met to form a task force to react to the devastation.

Currently you can take any donations to any merchants that are taking up donations. The participating merchants are listed on the chamber website at www.welcometomountainbrook.com.

We will hear more this year as Mountain Brook works on other ways for you to help.

MOUNTAIN BROOK DISASTER RELIEF HELPING PLEASANT GROVE



SPARTANS HELPING SPARTANS

Fundraising at CBS 2011-2012 School Year

Mark your calendars! CBS PTO will host three fundraisers this year!

The **Boosterthon Fun Run on October 7th** is guaranteed to be a hit as we gather to cheer on our kids and support our school.

Our school-wide **Talent Show on March 9th** will be fantastic way to celebrate our children at the Bend.

With thrill rides, punk hair, dunking booths, and more, our students always look forward to our **Spring Carnival on April 27th**.

Events such as these enhance the classroom experience by providing our school with additional resources for tools that will offer engaging and challenging learning experiences for our students. Thanks for your continued support!



\$ Thanks to your support, our PTO has made our first donation to CBS!

- \$12,900 - Individual Teacher/Staff classroom and support projects
 - \$5,000 - FOAC Program
 - \$5,000 - Workroom Common Purchases
 - \$1,550 - 5th-Grade Tremont Science/History Retreat
 - \$24,450 - TOTAL DONATION**
- We look forward to many donations this year!!!



This year's Boosterthon theme is "EPIC Adventure," and it's all about Teamwork! Our students will be building character by learning the four secrets of good teams:

- Encourage
- Play
- Invite
- Celebrate

Our kick-off pep rally will be September 27th. Stay tuned for more information.



Chief Sponsors



We are so grateful to our Chief Sponsors for their generous support of Cherokee Bend!

Platinum Level

PrecisionPipe and Products, Inc.,
The Chandler family
Dr. Hufham Orthodontics,
The Hufham Family
Eagle Service Company,
The Jeffcoat family
Polaris Pumps LLC,
The Blattman family
Bill and Cyndy Uncapher and family

Gold Level

Ernst and Young LLP,
The Carothers family
Rheem Manufacturing,
The Roberts family
Transportation Services,
The Huffman family

Silver Level

Anderson, Pewitt & Associates,
The Brian Anderson family
Friedman, Leak, Dazzio, Zulanis & Bowling, P.C., *The Bowling family*
Randa and Steve Hall and family
Land Title Company,
The Forbus family
National Bank of Commerce,
The Goodson and Bragg families
Pediatric Anesthesia Associates, Dr. Gary W. Long, *The Long family*
Sina Skates,
The Skates family
Stephanie Steinmetz Pediatric Dentistry,
The Steinmetz family

Family Sponsorships

The Eddie Allen family
The Barnes and Walters family
The Berte family
The Byars family
The Cashio family
The Richard Davis family
The Gregory family
The Hatton family
The Hirsberg family
The Hydingler family
The Kerr family
The Michelle King family
The Kracke family
The Moellinger family
The John Smith family
The Tierney family



Nurse's Corner

*From the desk of Shana G. Williams,
RN, BSN, National Certified School Nurse*

I hope everyone's summer has been healthy and safe. To make the beginning of the year start smoothly, let me give a few suggestions for those students who will need to take medication during the school day.

√ The medication-authorization form needs to be signed by both the parent and the prescriber before the prescription medicine can be administered at school. Click on the link at the bottom of this article to access the form. The form is also available on the school website and at the front office. The state department will not allow me to accept faxed copies of the doctor's signature.

√ Controlled substances (Ritalin, Focalin, Adderall, etc.) must be counted by parent and school staff and signed for each time they are delivered or returned.

√ Over-the-counter medication that is brought to school by an adult must be in the

original, unopened container with the packaging instructions and the student's name written legibly on the package.

√ All medication must be delivered to the school nurse or school staff by an adult. Students are not to carry medication on their persons; this would violate the system's drug-free policy.

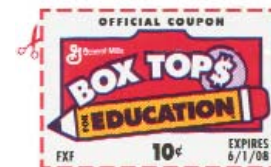
√ Be sure to turn in updated immunization forms (especially incoming Kindergarteners and 11-12 year olds who have received the required booster for Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis.

√ I will be available most of the week prior to school starting to accept medications for your student(s), but by all means try to bring it on Meet and Greet day to ensure a smooth transition on the first day of school.

Medical Authorization Form Link: http://www.mtnbrook.k12.al.us/Images/ProductImage_4706.pdf

Box Tops Keep Collecting!

Look out for information soon on this years deadlines, competitions and incentives. Help our school and keep collecting!



Welcome New Families

Look out for our new CBS families. And, of course, welcome to all of our families with their first kindergartner entering CBS!

The Bird Family - First grader

The Christian Family - Third grader

The Feig Family - Third grader

The Johnson Family - Sixth grader

The Lamons Family - First grader

The Kerr Family - First grader, Fourth grader, Fifth grader

The Rula Family - Fourth grader and Sixth grader

The Walker Family - Fifth grader

The Wilbanks Family - Second grader

The Williams Family - Fourth grader

The Wood Family - Second grader

**New Family
Picnic
August 21st**

More details will be sent out to new families.



... From the desk of Principal Betsy Bell

... continued from page 1

assuring that learning for teachers leads to learning for our students.

As you will notice in this issue of Smoke Signals, we are extremely pleased to welcome many new outstanding educators to our CBS family. Our faculty and staff have embraced them with open arms, enthusiasm, and a tremendous amount of support. I know that you will welcome them as well.

I want to thank our PTO for all of the support and help that you have given us this summer in preparation for the new school year. I know this will be the greatest school year ever at CBS. Your commitment to our school and community is evident in all that you do and is deeply appreciated.

Mr. Paris and I can't wait to see you on August 15th for Meet and Greet.

Go Chiefs!

Ring the bell,



Welcome New Teachers & Staff



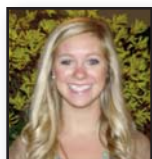
Mary Elizabeth Allen, Kindergarten, is a familiar face at Cherokee Bend since she served as an instructional aide during the 2010-2011 school year. She is a Birmingham

native and a graduate of The University of Alabama with a degree in elementary education. Mary Elizabeth is currently pursuing her master's degree in elementary education from the University of West Alabama. When she's not teaching or studying, she enjoys reading, shopping, traveling, and cheering on the Tide. *"I feel truly blessed to have started my career at Cherokee Bend. I know this will be a great year!"*



Lauren Lunceford, Kindergarten, has wanted to teach kindergarten since she was a kindergarten student herself. She is a graduate of Samford University, where she

earned her bachelor's degree in early childhood, elementary, and special education, as well as her master's degree in gifted education. Lauren served as an instructional aide at Cherokee Bend during the 2009-2010 school year. Last year, she taught 3rd through 5th grade gifted education in another Birmingham area school district. Lauren is also involved with Forgotten Children ministries and has made many summer trips to Honduras through that organization. *"I am thrilled to be coming back 'home' to the Bend!"*



Natalie Anderson, First Grade, is a Cherokee Bend alumnus and is excited about returning to her roots. She graduated from Mountain Brook High School and received her bachelor's degree from The University of Alabama.

Last year, Natalie taught in another suburban school district. She says she is excited about reuniting with the Cherokee Bend family. *"Getting to teach at Cherokee Bend is my dream job, and I plan to make this year welcoming, challenging, and meaningful for every student."*



Mary Emma Hays, Second Grade, has spent the past two years as an instructional aide at Cherokee Bend. She is a Tuscaloosa native and a graduate of The University of

Alabama with a degree in elementary education. She is now working toward her master's degree in curriculum and instruction at UAB. When she is not working, Mary Emma enjoys spending time with her family and playing the guitar. *"I am honored to continue working with the wonderful faculty and staff of Cherokee Bend. Go Chiefs!"*



Barbara Parker, Third Grade, is a graduate of UAB, where she received a master's degree in education as well as a master's degree in hospital and health administration.

Prior to becoming a teacher, she had a career in health care administration. Barbara is very familiar with Cherokee Bend, having been an instructional aide here for the last two years. When she is not at school, she stays busy taking care of her two sons. She also enjoys running the neighborhood streets around the school. *"I am excited to be with the third grade this year and to share a fabulous year with your children."*



Daniel Ferguson, Fourth Grade, has taught in Alabaster and Birmingham. He also has experience teaching in Japan. Daniel is a graduate of Birmingham-Southern College

and UAB. When he's not in the classroom, Daniel enjoys traveling, reading, running, and cooking. *"I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone at Cherokee Bend."*

continued on page 9 . . .



For Smoke Signals comments, questions, or input contact:

Lori Allen at lallen66@charter.net



From the desk of Asst. Principal Chad Paris

First of all, let me start off by saying what a privilege it is to be the Assistant Principal at Cherokee Bend. I have already witnessed that

the expectations set by the Board of Education, teachers, and parents, along with the willingness to ensure that every child succeeds, are truly the heart of Cherokee Bend and Mountain Brook Schools. It is my hope that this year is filled with lots of learning and that all of our children and teachers leave this year having experienced daily the comfort and feeling of family, which is what makes Cherokee Bend so great.

I began my teaching career at Plainview High School in north Alabama, which eventually led me to Auburn City Schools, where I have been for the past seven years. During my tenure at Auburn, I was given various responsibilities, but there are two accomplishments that I value most and feel have guided me in becoming the leader that I am today. The first is my involvement with the Lt. Gen. Hal Moore Leadership Academy. Following the example of its namesake, this organization encourages our students to become better role models and leaders within the classroom as well as in the community. It was with this opportunity that I was able to use my leadership skills to guide students and assist them in becoming their best. In addition, I place much value on my experience as a coach. Through coaching, I was able to help young men develop into great leaders beyond the classroom and field. During my time as a coach, many of these players trusted me with their lives and personal experiences outside of school, and it was my responsibility to help mold them into the men they are today. I believe that the bonds I formed with these players will be useful in decisions that I have to make in the future.

Through these two roles, I feel that not only my students grew, but I also grew in my leadership skills. I bring these experiences with me to Cherokee Bend so that I can hopefully pass some of the learning on to our faculty, staff, and children.

This is the start of my 10th year as an educator, and it is my first year as an assistant principal. This new position brings about several changes and challenges that I have looked forward to for some time. However, there are many changes going on in my personal life as well. Along with my new professional responsibilities, I am currently finishing my Ph.D. at Auburn University. Probably the most exciting change in my life is the growth within my own family. My wife, Melanie, and I are expecting our first child (a boy) in September! We are thinking blue! We could not feel more blessed with all the great things that are going on in our lives.

As we start this year, let's always remember the reason we are teachers. We are here to create an environment that is inviting for our children and one that makes them eager to learn. I feel strongly that all of us in the education profession have been given a great gift to lead. My goal is that everyone who comes to Cherokee Bend will be better leaders, citizens, and learners for tomorrow.

Let's get ready to learn!

Chad Paris



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Welcome New Teachers & Staff continued . . .



Susan McCall, Reading Coach, has spent 20 years in education. She has taught first grade, second grade, and fourth grade in both Alabama and Georgia. Her most recent position was reading coach at Deer Valley

Elementary in Hoover. Susan received her bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University and her master's degree from The University of Georgia. She also earned an education specialist degree from Brenau University. In 2010, Susan became a National Board Certified teacher specializing in literacy. She enjoys spending time with her husband, Andrew, and her twin daughters, Hannah and Emily Grace. *"I'm so excited about joining the wonderful Cherokee Bend community!"*



Hannah Peters, Fifth Grade, is a graduate of Auburn University with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. In her free time, she enjoys crafting, bargain shopping, spending time with her family, and attending Auburn football games. Hannah also loves teaching baton twirling to girls of all ages. *"I am excited to be teaching fifth grade reading/language arts and social studies at Cherokee Bend."*



4th Grade Veterans Day Program



All rising 4th graders are encouraged to provide pictures via CD or hard copy (neither to be returned) of family Veterans. If you happen to see your Veterans in person, please snap a picture with them or ask for a copy of an old picture in uniform! Pictures should be sent to Evelyn Graham: graham3570@gmail.com
3570 Westbury Road, 35223



Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation Funding for 2011-2012 School Year

The Program and Needs Committee of the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation met in April to consider a request for funding from the Mountain Brook Schools. The total amount of the request was \$472,000. All of the items on the list were discussed by the committee and given careful consideration. Since the foundation is restricted each year in the amount that can be disbursed in order to protect the endowment's principal, the committee was limited to a total of \$362,192 to allocate to the schools. Because of the limitation on the funding, the committee had to make tough choices. The decisions were based on need, greatest impact on the most students, and potential for the enhancement of learning. The following allocation was recommended to and approved by the Board of Directors:

2011-2012 Funding Approved

Library Enhancement

Books, Magazines, Software & Supplies	\$ 12,000	
		\$ 12,000

Professional Learning

Two Math Coaches	\$120,000	
Summer Professional Learning	\$ 80,000	
		\$200,000

Technology

Year 2 Pilot of Promethean Interactive White Boards in K-1	\$ 20,000	
Laptop Replacements	\$130,192	
		\$150,192

TOTAL:		\$362,192
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Your Opportunity to Make a Difference

The impact of ongoing pro-ration and the reduction in property tax revenue associated with lower real estate values have put financial pressure on the schools.

Each Mountain Brook resident has the opportunity to help the situation by contributing to the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation.

Your investment in our schools will **MAKE A DIFFERENCE!** Please contribute today.

A foundation pledge card is available at www.mtnbrookschooolsfoundation.com. Please call our office at 414-0042 with questions.