

Smoke Signals

Cherokee Bend School



Celebrate, Champion, Challenge!



Boosterthon Is Back

with an Epic Adventure
September 27th - October 7th

We are so excited to bring back BOOSTERTHON - Cherokee Bend's major fundraiser for 2011-2012! We will kick off with a Pep Rally on Tuesday, September 27, and the Fun Run is Friday, October 7. During our 10 days of BOOSTERTHON, the Boosterthon Team will spend 300 hours with CBS students promoting fitness, leadership, and character, while helping equip them to Encourage, Play, Invite and Celebrate. Remember, classrooms will win art packs, sports packs and electronic equipment, and all donations are 100% tax deductible. New for this year is an online payment option - great for out-of-town friends and relatives! Mark your calendars and GET READY for a great BOOSTERTHON!!!

Some Boosterthon memories from last year on page 2 . . .



Ring the Bell

From the desk of Principal Betsy Bell



Dear Parents,

We are off to a fabulous start at Cherokee Bend! I cannot believe that September is already here and the Labor Day weekend is upon us.

Your children are such a joy to work with, and we are so happy that you share them with us

each and every day! I sincerely hope that you enjoyed our Back-to-School Night as much as we did. Our teachers and staff always treasure the time that they get to spend with you at the beginning of a new school year. The information shared that night is amazing and I think that you will agree, our teachers and staff work hard to make the curriculum come alive, prepare
continued on page 7 . . .

CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

Sept 5 -	Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
Sept 7 -	School Pictures
Sept 9 - 10	NERF Weekend
Sept 14 -	FOAC Meeting for 5th & 6th Grade Parents at 12:00 pm
Sept 15 -	Spirit Day @ Zaxby's
Sept 16 -	CBS Casual Friday Party
Sept 17-	CBS Harvest Dinner
Sept 22 -	Coffee with the Reading Coach @ 8am
Sept 26 -	Make-up Pictures
Sept 27 -	Boosterthon Kickoff
Sept 30-	FOAC Campout 6A Starts
Oct 5 -	Tremont Parent Meeting @ 10:45 am
Oct 7 -	Boosterthon Fun Run

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Welcome to
Our Youngest
Cherokee Chief!!!!



Congratulations to our new Assistant Principal Chad Paris and his wife Melanie on the arrival of their son!

Graydon "Hill" Paris
Born August 24th
5lbs. 15 ounces
19½ inches long

Mr. Paris comes to us from the Auburn school system so, of course, Hill was wearing orange and blue upon arrival!

Lost
and
Found



Please remember to LABEL all your children's new school items (clothes, backpacks, lunchboxes, water bottles, etc.). We will do our best to keep Lost and Found organized and return marked items to their classrooms. All unmarked and uncollected items will be gathered 3 to 4 times during the year and donated to Goodwill.

Lost and Found is located outside the cafeteria by the entrance to the gym. Please stop by and check for items when you are in the building. You may be surprised and find items you didn't even realize were missing. As always, thanks for your support and help.

Committee Chairs
Rosemary Nichols & Cyndy Uncapher

Boosterthon 2010 memories . . .



Come be a part of the "fun"
this year on October 7th!

Rebate Programs Provide easy money for CBS.

We can help our school by supporting these rebate partners.

Publix Partners pays \$1 to CBS for every \$125 scanned on the keychain card. Be sure to use your card for every Publix purchase. Share cards with other family members who are Publix customers for even greater rebates. Cards are available from the school office or from Rebate Chair Emily Amberson.



Chick-fil-A partners with CBS on scheduled Spirit Days. Coupons will be sent home with students which may be presented at Eastwood Chick-fil-A on designated days resulting in a percentage of the sale going to CBS. Watch for Chick-fil-A Spirit Days in November and April.

Zaxby's Spirit Days are scheduled for September and February. CBE receives 15% of receipts for the entire day when customers specify Cherokee Bend with their order at the Montclair Road location.



Committee Chair
Emily Amberson

Sign Up Genius Making Volunteering Easier



This year, many of our Room Mothers are going "high tech"! They're tossing those traditional paper lists and using a website called www.signupgenius.com. Sign Up Genius will send emails from the room mothers including links to individual class sign-up pages. Parents must register with Sign Up Genius, and then you can choose where you would like to help.

Once you sign up as a volunteer for a particular activity, Sign Up Genius will maintain the sign-up list and automatically send reminders to volunteers when the date for that activity approaches. Please CHECK YOUR SPAM FOLDER if you do not receive emails from your class Room Mother to sign up.



Volunteer Hall of Fame

From the desk of PTO President, Amy Roberts



Let's celebrate our children, our faculty, our community . . . our education!

Chief Thanks to:

Fundraising

- Girlalalooza hostesses for sharing their "Mamma Mia" hospitality in a fantastic party! What a special way to donate money to our school!
- Kimm Eckhoff for organizing the Box Top "hold up" video complete with our pink cowgirl and her cute comrades reminding us that every little box top matters!
- Ann Jones and Michelle Kelly for conveying our Boosterthon message of fitness, leadership, and character. The video of our precious children jamming to the music created lots of excitement!

Just For Our Kids!

- Kristy Harrison for arranging yummy breakfasts every Friday for our wonderful Safety Patrol kids!
- Kelly Anderson for the adorable decorations in the cafeteria. Wow!

School Community Events

- Stacy White, Aimee Forbus, and Jessica Naftel for hosting the coffee for kindergarten moms on the first day of school. What a wonderful way to welcome new parents to the Bend!
- Edith Lyon, Susan Yarbro, and Jackie Breland for organizing our first New Family Picnic on the school grounds! It was such a hit for both parents and students alike!

Communications

- Mae Mae Kracke and Stephanie Carothers for working so hard on our indispensable CBS directories. We're grateful for your talents and can't wait to see them.

General Support

- Missy Jones and Dena Berte for directing our carpool video segment reminding us to BE SAFE in carpool as we begin a new school year.
- Mr. Haller for coordinating and editing our Back-to-School Night video during his busiest time of year!
- Kim Long and Donna Askenazi for coordinating our Headphone Helpers committee and for setting up our kids with new headphones for the first day of school.
- Emily Amberson for communicating and encouraging us to take advantage of rebate programs. Little things like using Publix key fobs when we shop raise easy money for our school!

Faculty Support

- Allison Weil for introducing a new system to our Room Mothers to streamline classroom sign-ups and collections. She certainly has made "Sign Up Genius" our friend!
- Beth and Buddy Underwood for donating the delicious Dreamland barbecue dinner for our teachers on Back-to-School Night. What a generous treat!



PTO Update

Look for some changes this year with our PTO calendar. In recent years, our communication through school Enews and Smoke Signals has proven to keep us connected with the daily happenings at our school. So now instead of conducting monthly PTO meetings, we are inviting all parents to join us in school events that celebrate our children! We hope you can concentrate your time in attending our celebration events!

Our "celebration" schedule for the year includes:

- October 7 -- Boosterthon Fun Run
- November 3 -- Veterans Day Program
- December 15 -- Holiday Program
- March 9 -- Talent Show
- April 19 - Expressions Recognition
- April 27 -- Carnival
- May 25 - 6th Grade Clap Out

Cherokee Bend PTO -- It's all about CELEBRATING!!





Who's Celebrating? September Birthdays

- 5th - Ashley Paulk, 1st Grade
- 9th - Julie Kent, Academic Support
- 18th - Leslie Batts, 3rd Grade
- 14th- Carol Francis, Art
- 23rd - James Stone, Custodian
- 27th - Betsy Bell, Principal



Community News

9/11 10th Anniversary Memorial Service

Join us Sunday, September 11th from 8:45 - 9:30 am at Vestavia Hills High School for a service of remembrance with the cities of Mountain Brook, Homewood, and Vestavia Hills.

Business After Hours

Networking between chamber members from local communities. Two events available in September. Check out the website below for information.

Cahaba Village for the Cure

Visit the village after hours on September 22nd from 6 - 8 pm. Shop and then drop by the signature pink tents to sign up for this year's Race for the Cure, being held on October 15th.

MBHS Homecoming

Friday, September 30th vs Spain Park. Kick-off at 7pm.

For more information on these events go to www.welcometomountainbrook.com.



Librarians' Corner

From the CBS Library Media Center, Beth Shea & Kathy Hoskins

What a great start we have had in the Cherokee Bend Library Media Center! During the summer we added 200+ new books to the collection and nine new computer workstations to help get our students more excited about reading!!

Library information, Destiny Library Search, and Homework Help, as well as other sites may be found on our library home page at: <http://www.mtnbrook.k12.al.us/cms/Library+Media+Center/403.html>

We would like to remind parents and students of a great searching tool that may be accessed through Destiny called WebPath Express. WebPath Express allows students to search for age-appropriate sites. Try it and see what you think!

Also, be sure to remember the great programs offered at Emmet O'Neal Library such as Savvy Surfing, Library Out Loud, and various novel studies. You can see the calendar of events at www.eolib.org.

Coming in October
Blast off with the
Scholastic Book Fair!

The Scholastic Book Fair will take place October 14 - October 20. There will be a few changes in hopes to make shopping easier for parents. More details will come in the October Smoke Signals.

Counselor's Corner

From the desk of Shannon Colquitt, School Counselor

I am looking forward to working with your child/ren this year and getting to know each of you. The goal of the counseling program is to help your child develop to his/her full potential academically, emotionally, and socially. Here are some of the services that help to accomplish this:

- Did you know that elementary counselors...
 - ...teach classroom guidance lessons on a variety of topics?
 - ...counsel individual students as needed and maintain confidentiality?
 - ...counsel with small groups of children with similar concerns?
 - ...consult with teachers and assist them in meeting individual student needs?
 - ...coordinate referrals to school and community agencies?
 - ...coordinate state testing programs?
 - ...maintain an information center for parent and teacher use?

The Cherokee Bend Counseling Services are available to all parent(s)/guardian(s) and their children. Please feel free to call me if you have a concern or a question. I am looking forward to meeting you.



September Small Groups

Friendship Club - helping children develop and practice social skills (increasing the usage of behaviors that successful students and successful members of society demonstrate).

Banana Splits - helps children cope with family changes due to separation, divorce, or remarriage. The children have an opportunity to see that others are in similar situations and that changes can be met with a positive attitude.

If you feel your student would benefit from either topic and you would like to refer him/her to a group, or if you are interested in knowing more information about them, please contact me by September 12.



Reading Corner

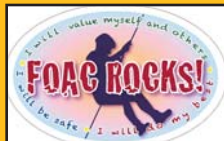
From the desk of Susan McCall, Reading Coach

I am so excited to be a part of the Cherokee Bend community. I'm looking forward to working with you this year! Mark your calendars now for our first

Coffee with the Coach scheduled for September 22nd from 8:00 to 9:00am in room 306. We will be talking about the independent reading assigned regularly for homework. How do you know your child is really reading? On September 22nd, join me for a discussion of strategies to maximize the impact of this daily reading. We will explore ideas for making connections with your child's independent reading. We will also brainstorm guiding questions designed to deepen comprehension. Don't miss this informative and practical session filled with applications for students at all grade levels.



FOAC Campout Dates



5th grade:

- 5A Oct 14 - 16
- 5B Jan 20-22
- 5C Mar 2-4
- 5D April 20-22

6th grade:

- 6A Sept 30 - Oct 2
- 6B Dec 2-4
- 6C Feb 3-5
- 6D Mar 30- Apr 1
- 6E May 11-13

Thank you to all the families who purchased hats and car magnets at Meet and Greet. We raised close to \$2000 to support this unique and wonderful program at Cherokee Bend. These funds go to help buy equipment for the FOAC program like carabiners, harnesses, specialized ropes, upkeep of the ropes course, and other necessities.

All 5th and 6th grade students wear hats during their FOAC campouts, so why not make it a FOAC hat! You can receive one hat and one car magnet for a \$25 donation to the FOAC fund. Your support is SO appreciated. Please contact Rebecca Goodson or Jamie Blattmann at:
 rebeccagoodson@me.com
 jamieblattmann@gmail.com

FOAC Meeting for 5th & 6th Grade Parents

Wednesday, September 14th
 12:00 pm
 CBS Auditorium

Fair Oaks Adventure Curriculum So what is FOAC?

FOAC is an adventure-based course that teaches our students strategies to oppose negative behavior and encourage positive behavior. This is done through engaging activities and games that focus on teamwork, cooperation, problem solving, and decision making. At the younger grades, the students are learning how to listen, follow directions, and work together, among other important tasks. As the children grow, the challenges increase. In fifth and sixth grades, each child is assigned a campout group. The groups meet for five to six weeks during their PE time, with a campout as the culmination of their time together. During the campouts, the children are able to participate in high ropes activities, like the catwalk, multi-vine, pamperpole, flying squirrel, and zip-line (all on the Cherokee Bend campus). The sixth grade students go rock climbing and rappelling at Palisades Park as a special Saturday excursion. We are so fortunate to have this wonderful program and such a fabulous facilitator in Mr. Hedrick!

Please visit the FOAC website to view the videos of last year's campouts and read the student quotes about their FOAC experiences.
<http://www.mtnbrook.k12.al.us/cms/FOAC/897.html>



2012-2013 Kindergarten Playgroup



Believe it or not, we are already planning for the 2012-2013 Kindergarten class! If you have a child that will be entering Kindergarten in August 2012, please contact Rebecca Goodson (rebeccagoodson@me.com) so we can add you to the playdate list. We will be scheduling some fun playtime as well as sending out reminders for fun upcoming events. So very exciting!!!



Volunteer of the Year Recognized



Lori Allen was honored as the 2010-2011 Volunteer of the Year at the PTO End-of-Year Luncheon last May. Past PTO President Tracy Bragg noted, "Today we honor Lori Allen, whose work is remarkable but, perhaps more importantly, she is an absolute joy to work with!" Lori has been the publisher of our awesome Smoke Signals newsletter for several years. She systematically completes her monthly volunteer opportunities in a spirited and enthusiastic way. Lori has a gift for communicating and presenting lots of information in a clear and friendly format. We are so grateful for the countless hours that Lori spends making sure that all of our parents are connected. Way to go, Lori!

And, here is what a few other parents are saying...

Thank you for sharing your gifts of creativity, generosity and positive energy with everyone at CBS. We are so fortunate to have you as a volunteer, and our school and children are better because of you! -- Dena Berte

Lori Allen is one of the most organized and dependable committee chairs I worked with last year. She brought the Smoke Signals to a whole new level! Not only is she creative, but she also is so cheerful to work with and never stresses over anything. Smoke Signals ran like its own independent "volunteer business". -- Tricia Pugh

When you look up the word Volunteer in the Dictionary, a photo of Lori appears. She handles every volunteer job as if it were the most important—and always with a smile on her face. Lori is a leader in her church, school, and work place and is someone that I am so happy to have as a friend. Congratulations, Lori! No one deserves it more than you. -- Suzan Smith Doidge



Welcome to our New Instructional Aides



Kolbe Karr is a graduate of The University of Alabama. She recently received her master's degree in elementary education from the University of Montevallo. Outside of the classroom, Kolbe enjoys running, reading, and spending time with friends and family. "I have had the opportunity to meet several of our awesome Cherokee Bend families and can't wait to get to work with these smart, energetic children."



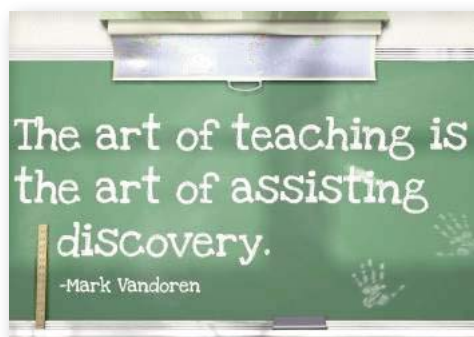
Shelley Hunt received her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Auburn University. She also earned her master's degree in elementary education from UAB. In the past, Shelley has taught at Inverness Elementary and Oak Mountain Elementary. She and her husband, Sam, have two children who attend Cherokee Bend. Sam is a first grader and Olivia is a third grader. "I am looking forward to being a part of the Cherokee Bend family in a totally new and exciting capacity."



Keeley Burris is a native of Birmingham. She graduated from The University of Alabama in May 2011 with a degree in elementary education. In her spare time, Keeley enjoys water-skiing, traveling, event and party planning, clothes merchandising, babysitting, photography, and watching SEC football. "I am very excited about beginning my career at Cherokee Bend Elementary School and getting to know everyone."



Ashley Chambliss graduated from Auburn University in May 2010 with a degree in early childhood education. During the 2010-2011 school year, Ashley worked as a substitute teacher at various schools. She ended the school year with a long-term substitute position at Mountain Brook Elementary. When she is not in the classroom, Ashley enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with friends and family. "I am so thrilled to continue my educational career and become a part of Cherokee Bend Elementary."





... From the desk of Principal Betsy Bell

... continued from page 1

our children for the future, and foster life-long learning.

I also want to thank our PTO for all of their support that continues to be beyond belief! Whether it be serving on a committee, helping teachers, providing financial support, directing traffic, planting flowers, or taking pictures, our heartfelt thanks goes out to our PTO for all of their hard work and dedication to our school.

I also want to take a moment to thank our Foundation for funding many of our critical academic "extras" such as technology, teacher training and development, and library enhancement. Thank you Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation for making a difference in our schools.

As you know, our teachers and staff are committed to serving your children in the very best way possible. We all know that the purpose of Mountain Brook Schools is to provide an effective, challenging, and engaging education for every student. As we kick off another great school year, please know that we are here for you!

Ring the bell,



For Smoke Signals comments, questions, or input contact:

Lori Allen at lallen66@charter.net

Grades At-A-Glance

Kindergarten

Art - Horizon Line

Music - Learn, explore and play instruments

Spanish - Greetings, Oso Café book, animals and colors

PE - Hacky Sac/Throwing and Catching

First Grade

Art - Bear and Cylinders

Music - Work on steady beat activities using instruments, singing and music games

Spanish - Introduction to Spain

PE - Hacky Sac/Throwing and Catching

Second Grade

Art - Scarecrows

Music - Creative movement activities and singing games

Spanish - All About Me descriptions, Geography

PE - Hacky Sac/Throwing and Catching

Third Grade

Art - Reptiles or Insects

Music - Play barred instruments and use music books for singing

Spanish - Seasons, Birthdays, Weather, Months of the Year

PE - Wiffle Ball/Flag Football

Fourth Grade

Art - Tree of Life/Klimt

Music - Work on Veterans Day Program

Spanish - Weather, Introduction to South America

PE - Wiffle Ball/Flag Football

Fifth Grade

Art - Tremont Pocket Design

Music - Learn new notes on recorders and use music books for singing

Spanish - Introduction to Central America and the Caribbean

PE - Wiffle Ball/Flag Football

FOAC - Parents Meeting September 14th at 12:00pm in Auditorium

Sixth Grade

Art - Edifice

Music - Recorder activities

Spanish - Introduction to Spain

PE - Wiffle Ball/Flag Football

FOAC - Parents Meeting September 14th at 12:00pm in Auditorium

