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**Upcoming Events:****September**

- September 16th - PTO Fall Picnic at 5:30 p.m.
- September 20th - PTO Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- September 21st - Day of Caring
- September 30th - Bagels and Books at 7:30 a.m.

**October**

- October 10th - Professional Learning Day - No School for Students
- October 28th - Fall Fun Fair and Silent Auction
- Parent Conferences coming up in October and the start of November

**November**

- November 4th - 15th Scholastic Book Fair
- November 7th and 8th - No School for Students

## Greenbrier Elementary School PTO

*Principal's Message*

I love fresh starts. We find ourselves in the beginning of a new school year and as I talk with students, parents, and teachers I find that everyone is looking forward to another great year. There is an incredible positive feel with the opening of school. I think it is because we all have an

opportunity to begin with a clean slate and have a year full of opportunities in front of us. As we move through this school year the "freshness" tends to wear off, but in a way it is good for us to keep that fresh start attitude. By having this attitude we will keep trying, keep learning, and make our mistakes productive.

Please join me in encouraging one another to always do our best, whether it is teaching learning, or parenting. As always I thank you for your support and entrusting us with your children to help them reach their fullest potential.

Jim Kyner, Principal

*Meet our new Assistant Principal, Jodie Zeis*

Dear Greenbrier Students, Parents, and Community, I am so very excited to be at Greenbrier Elementary, serving as the new assistant principal. I am so happy to be back in Virginia! I am coming back to Virginia after teaching for one year and serving as an assistant principal for four years, in South Carolina. Prior to that, I taught in Virginia for nine years.

I received my Bachelors Degree from Millersville University in Pennsylvania. My Masters Degree is in Special Education and I re-

ceived that from Old Dominion University. My specialist degree was earned at UVA.

I enjoy the outdoors and like to go fishing with my family. I used to work at a zoo while I was in college and I love finding critters such as insects to examine, outdoors. I am married and have four boys. We recently got a new dog and named her Charlotte. Please do not hesitate to stop by Greenbrier and say 'hello'. I look forward to an amazing year here at Greenbrier!



Mrs. Jodie Zeis,  
Assistant Principal



*Mrs. Wilson reads a story to students*

## *Greenbrier's Scholastic Book Fair*

Be on the lookout for Greenbrier's 2011 Scholastic Book Fair. The fair will run from November 4<sup>th</sup> through November 15<sup>th</sup>. Come and get an early start on holiday shopping for friends and family or to

surprise your teacher with a new book! A Poetry Night and a special lunch will also be a part of this exciting event. We will be looking for enthusiastic volunteers. If you are excited to help, please contact Martha

Webber at [mlwebber@netscape.com](mailto:mlwebber@netscape.com) or Melissa Warren at [melissa@cvillewarrens.com](mailto:melissa@cvillewarrens.com).

## *Volunteer Opportunities for Greenbrier Families*



Greenbrier has families from all over the world who speak more than 15 languages. Greenbrier staff and families take pride in our diversity as a school. We want to make every family's experience with our school a positive one. Greenbrier conducts outreach with the English as a Second Language (ESL) population in a variety of ways. The school has a small after-school tutoring program

at Hearthwood apartments. Each week Greenbrier families sort and deliver food from the food bank to families in that same neighborhood. Experienced families "adopt" ESL families and help bridge the gap between school and home by helping families get to school events and signing up and transporting kids to team sports.

Do these volunteer opportuni-

ties appeal to you?

Call Sarah Cooper at 434-973-3739 or email her at [cooper-jacoby@yahoo.com](mailto:cooper-jacoby@yahoo.com) if you are interested in volunteering with the Greenbrier ESL community. Our most immediate need is volunteers who will sort and deliver food. This could be a weekly or monthly commitment. Thanks!

Sarah Cooper, PTO ESL liaison

## *Greenbrier News Brief*



*Students listen to a story read by a parent volunteer*

- Prior to school opening, we had many parent volunteers, as well as students, come out to the Greenbrier Courtyard to help trim and weed. Though it was hard work, the courtyard looks great. Thanks to all those who came out to help!

- Over the summer, our gym floor received a facelift. If you haven't stopped by, it is a must see. The wood is gleaming and looks amazing! Please remind

your children to wear tennis shoes on PE days so we can keep the floor looking great!

- Greenbrier started MAP testing on September 6<sup>th</sup>. This will continue by grade level throughout the month. For exact dates or questions, please contact Mrs. Zeis at x2552.

- On August 30 we had our first PTO meeting of the year. What an amazing turnout! We look forward to a strong par-

ticipation throughout the year. We can certainly use your help and ideas too!

- We have started collecting Box Tops for Education. PLEASE save all of your "Box Tops for Education" and send them in. It helps our school earn money!

## Introducing, 3rd Grade Teacher, Hanna Hof

Hello Greenbrier Community! My name is Hannah Hof and I am thrilled to be the new third grade teacher. The halls of Greenbrier are very familiar to me as I was once a Frog myself. I am currently teaching in the very classroom where I sat as a third grader many years

ago. Growing up in Charlottesville I went through the public city schools and on to UVa where I received my Masters in Elementary Education. You may find me at the farmer's market gathering ingredients for a new recipe, searching for antique furniture in local

shops, or hiking in the Blue Ridge Mountains. I couldn't be more excited about being a part of the Greenbrier family once again, this time as a teacher rather than one of Mr. Kyner's fourth grade students:) It is going to be a great year!



Ms. Hanna Hof

## Introducing, 4th Grade Teacher, Jessica Bennett

Hello! My name is Jessica Bennett, and I am the newest member of the Fourth Grade Team. I am excited to be at Greenbrier! Everyone has been extremely helpful and made me feel so welcome. I am enjoying getting to know all of the 4th grade students, and look forward to working with my class this year.

I recently moved to Charlottes-

ville from Jesup, Georgia with my husband and two children. My husband is a Major in the US Army and also a Critical Care Registered Nurse. He is currently a graduate student at The University of Virginia. My oldest daughter, Emma, is in 1st grade and will be attending Greenbrier. My youngest daughter, Sarah, is 2 years old.

This is my 10th year teaching. I

have taught Kindergarten, 4th grade, 5th grade, and 6th grade. I also hold a Masters in Elementary Reading and Literacy.

I enjoy spending time with my family, going to church, reading with my girls, exploring nature trails, scrapbooking, and sewing.

I look forward to a wonderful school year!



Mrs. Jessica Bennett

## From the Clinic

### **Keeping our school and everyone in it healthy!!!**

Here are some guidelines concerning when it is appropriate to keep your child home due to illness.

**Fever:** If 100 degrees or higher, children should stay home and will be sent home if fever occurs at school. The child must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school. Fevers usually mean *contagious*.

**Vomiting:** Children who are vomiting should stay at home

or will be sent home from school.

**Diarrhea:** Children with this symptom should stay home or will be sent home.

**Rash:** When a rash accompanies a feeling of sickness and or fever, investigate the symptoms more thoroughly with your child's doctor.

**General Malaise:** Children will say "I don't feel good" or "I hurt or ache". That is your cue to check the child's temperature. Look of others symptoms that might indicate that

your child is ill.

Feel free to call the school clinic (245-2540) if in doubt and we will help you figure things out. Please do not medicate and send your child to school. In general, please talk with your child about good hygiene practices such as hand washing, coughing or sneezing into their elbows, and not putting hands or objects into their mouths. Our Goal is to have everyone as healthy as possible!!!





## *New Girl Scout Troops forming at Greenbrier*

For almost 100 years Girl Scouts have been helping girls discover their self potential. Did you know that 70% of women in the U.S. Congress were Girl Scouts? They're not alone. About 69% of women executives and leaders have participated in Girl Scouts.

The goals of Girl Scout programs are to build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.

In addition to the current 2nd and 3rd grade Brownie troops, we are currently gauging interest in forming Daisy (1st grade) and Junior

(4th grade) level Girl Scout troops.

For more information, please contact Ruth Payne at [rap9r@hotmail.com](mailto:rap9r@hotmail.com)

**"Volunteers are seldom paid; not because they are worthless, but because they are PRICELESS!"**

## *Upcoming PTO Meeting*

The next PTO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20th from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the library.

If you need childcare to attend the meeting please contact

Valerie Long [valeriewagner-long@hotmail.com](mailto:valeriewagner-long@hotmail.com), 242-6792 or Amy Laufer, [amystef-fes@hotmail.com](mailto:amystef-fes@hotmail.com), 825-6806.

We are going to have a great year, thanks to everyone for getting involved!

Valerie and Amy

PTO Co-Presidents

## *10 Reasons YOU Should Join the PTO*



1. To find out what's happening. The PTO knows what's happening with the school and usually plans many of the events.
2. To use your skills. You can share what you're good at doing to help your child and all the other children in the school.
3. To meet other parents. You can learn so much from other PTO members and potentially even make new friends. Other parents know the best teachers, the not-so-great ones, and what the crucial issues at the school might be. This is your chance to share ideas, concerns and experiences – a chance you might not have otherwise.
4. To speak up. PTO has a platform you can use to suggest change at your child's school.
5. To witness improvement. When you get involved, you can help make positive changes to the building, the curriculum and to social events.
6. To show your child you care. By becoming a PTO member, you're also becoming a role model and demonstrating to your child the importance you place on education.
7. To enjoy benefits. Often individuals or local units have the opportunity to take advantage of discounts and offers only available to them – like magazine subscriptions, training, newsletters and more.
8. To make a difference. There is power in numbers, so joining PTO gives you a powerful voice for the children.
9. To support your child and others. According to [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org), PTO is the largest child advocacy association in the United States.
10. To be part of a working mechanism. PTO has been around since 1897, more than 100 years. Not many organizations last this long, so it must be doing something right.

## *The Fall Fun Fair - October 28th*

### *Mark your calendars and get ready for FUN!*

#### **Did you know...**

- The Fall Fun Fair is certainly the biggest community night of the year, and definitely the most anticipated by the kids?
- Combined with the Silent Auction on the same evening, it is the biggest PTO fund-raiser?
- 100% of the PTO fundraising goes directly back to Greenbrier School?
- Because of so many fun activities, we need about 175 volunteers so that everything runs smoothly?

Like last year, we are planning many activities such as moon bounces, hayrides, face painting, golf, a fairy walk, food, a basketball competition, pony rides and much, much more. We also want to include entertainment, such as karaoke, musical groups and other performers.

#### **So, we need your help!**

In particular, we are in search of parents or teachers who could help with the following:

- Feedback from those who attended the Fun Fair last year so that we can be sure everybody has a good time. (How might we improve the experience? Do you have an idea for new activities? Please note that we will not be bringing Hay inside the building this year.)
- Captains to organize new activities, such as entertainment and a hay bale maze
- Entertainment! (Offering your own or finding some local talent.)
- The loan of a karaoke machine or karaoke video game for the evening.

If you have any thoughts to share, would like to get involved in planning the evening, want to help by taking charge of an event or can spare some time during the evening, please contact any one of the Fall Fun Fair coordinators:

**Anne Russell** (Coordinator of Decorations and Set-up)

E-mail: [annerussell8@comcast.net](mailto:annerussell8@comcast.net)

Phone #: 293-3639

**Willa Neale** (Coordinator of Volunteers and Tickets) :

e-mail: [willaneale@hotmail.com](mailto:willaneale@hotmail.com),

Phone #: 979-3471

**Claire Buisseret** (Events Coordinator):

E-mail: [claire.buisseret@gmail.com](mailto:claire.buisseret@gmail.com)

Phone #: 872-9232

**You can also fill a volunteer slot on our web site:**

[www.tinyurl.com/gbfunfair](http://www.tinyurl.com/gbfunfair)

## *Meet the 2011-2012 Greenbrier Elementary School PTO Executive Board*

Co-Presidents	Valerie Long Amy Laufer	<a href="mailto:valeriewagnerlong@hotmail.com">valeriewagnerlong@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:amysteffes@hotmail.com">amysteffes@hotmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Liz Gilmore	lagilmore@embarqmail.com
Frog Log Newsletter	Leslie Thacker	leslie.thacker@ccs.k12.va.us
Fall Fun Fair: Events Coordinator	Anne Russell	annerussell8@comcast.net
Fall Fun Fair: Volunteer Coordinator	Willa Neale	willaneale@hotmail.com
Fall Fun Fair: Finance and Food	Volunteer Needed	Vacant
Fall Fun Fair: Decorations and Set-up	Claire Buisseret	claire@nachbar.com
Silent Auction	Jody Esselstyn Tracey Webber	jesselstyn@gmail.com traceywebber@yahoo.com
Fall Picnic	Cheri Bowling	cheriwb@juno.com
ESL/IRC Liaison	Sarah Cooper	cooperjacoby@yahoo.com
Spring Soul Food Picnic	Karen Finke	kb9f@virginia.edu
Scholastic Book Fair	Martha Webber Melissa Warren	mlwebber@netscape.com melissamwarren@comcast.net
Courtyard Design and Maintenance	Anne Russell	annerussell8@comcast.net
Student Directory	Tracy MacDonald	mactysenn@yahoo.com
Joe Corbi Pizza Sale	Volunteer Needed	Vacant
Back to School Staff Breakfast	Emily Leblang	eleblang@hotmail.com
Fall Staff Appreciation Breakfast	Jonna Garono	jgarono@comcast.net
Winter Staff Appreciation Lunch	Alice Fitch	alice.k.fitch@gmail.com
Spring Staff Appreciation Breakfast	Suzan Hiller	suzan.hiller@ccs.k12.va.us
Spring Staff Appreciation Raffle	Emily Leblang **need one more person	eleblang@hotmail.com
Labels and Grocery Program	Jonna Garono	jgarono@comcast.net
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Advancement Ceremony	Kim Haise	kimhaise@aol.com
Cici's Night	Volunteer Needed	Vacant
Book Swap	Laura Vik	lvik@comcast.net
Parent Coffee Socials	Tracey Webber	<a href="mailto:traceywebber@yahoo.com">traceywebber@yahoo.com</a>
Teacher Workroom	Heather Downs	heatherldowns@yahoo.com

## Greenbrier Elementary School PTO

Greenbrier Elementary School  
2228 Greenbrier Drive  
Charlottesville, VA 22901  
Phone: (434) 245-2415

### We're on the Web!

<http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/schools/greenbrier/index.aspx>

Home of the Reading Stars!



### Reminders:

Parents of walkers/picked up students- Please have your child check out with a Greenbrier Staff member prior to getting your child. Thank you for your help with this.

For your safety, please cross the street with your children where the crossing guard is located.

School starts promptly at 8:30 am. Students must be **IN THEIR SEATS** by 8:30 or else they will be considered tardy.

### Guidance:

This month's life skill is organization.

**Organization;** to plan, arrange and implement in an orderly way. To keep things orderly and ready to use.

**Parents:** Help keep your students organized by looking through their backpacks and folders regularly.



## Charlottesville City School Division Update

The start of the school year is always a special time. This year is particularly exciting as it marks a new beginning for the school division. The updated CCS Strategic Plan 2011-2017 includes a vision statement and four strategic goals that define our future:

“Personal and Academic Excellence Inspired by a Collaborative and Innovative Learning Environment”

- Goal 1: All students will graduate prepared for post-secondary education and active participation in society.
- Goal 2: Our schools will be partners with families and the community to meet the academic, physical, social, and emotional needs of every student.
- Goal 3: Our schools will be optimal teaching and learning environments, places of excellence and equity for all.

- Goal 4: Charlottesville City Schools will be an exemplary workplace that attracts and supports the best-qualified teachers, administrators, and staff members.

Each goal is supported by specific, measurable objectives that will help us to realize its intent. Just as importantly, these new goals truly incorporate the community as a partner in educating students.

For example, the first strategy to actualize Goal 1 calls for us to “Embed critical and strategic thinking, problem solving, collaboration, creativity, and multimedia communication into instruction at all levels.” We will implement this strategy by August 2014 by establishing performance or project-based assessments that include these elements at each grade level. At grades 5, 8 and 10, students will be required to present experiential learning projects to a panel that includes community

members.

Another initiative beginning this year is BLAST (Blended Learning to Advance Student Thinking), which supplies each student in grades 6-12 with a Fujitsu tablet computer for the upcoming school year. Only CHS students will be allowed to carry their tablets home. Buford and Walker tablets will remain at school stored on carts. By providing access to a wealth of resources—online resources, multimedia capabilities, virtual field trips, and videoconferencing, to name but a few—both students and teachers will be building new skills and knowledge through local and global collaboration.

Our new CCS Strategic Plan is posted at [http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/about/docs/CCS\\_Strategic\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/about/docs/CCS_Strategic_Plan.pdf). I encourage you to take a look at the ways we are planning to transform our schools and to engage our community in boldly addressing the needs of 21st century learners.



*4th graders collaborate*



*Greenbrier students proudly wear their Reading STAR shirts*



# September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> School Board Meeting at 5:00 CHS Media Ctr.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Labor Day - No Students	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Back to school night - 7- 8 p.m.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> PTO Fall Pic- nic - 5:30 pm	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> PTO Meet- ing - 7 p.m.	<b>21</b> Day of Caring	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Bagels and Books 7:30 - 8:00 a.m.	



# October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> School Board Meeting at 5:00 CHS Media Ctr.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Professional Learning Day - No Students	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> PTO Meet- ing - 7 p.m.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Fall Fun Fair and Silent Auc- tion	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					