

April / May 2008

Mark your Calendar

March 28th

HMS vs. Langston Hughes
Basketball game, 6pm, South
Lakes HS

April 2nd

PTA Meeting, 7pm, Library

April 4th

Talent Show
3rd Quarter Ends

April 7th

Teacher Work Day, Student
Holiday

April 8th

Spirit Night at Foster's Grille, 5-
9pm

April 11th

Report Cards go home

April 23rd

Spelling Bee, 7pm, Auditorium

April 28th

8th Grade Honor Roll Assembly,
8am, Auditorium

April 29th

7th Grade Honor Roll Assembly,
8am, Auditorium

May 2nd

Music Department trip

May 7th

PTA Meeting, 7pm, Library
Elections

May 8th

National Junior Honor Society
Induction, 2:30pm, Auditorium?

May 9th

4th Quarter Interims go home

May 13th

Band Spring Concert, 7pm,
Auditorium
Spirit Night at Foster's Grille, 5-
9pm

Calendar continues on page 3

Herndon Middle School and PTA Newsletter

Principal's Corner

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We enjoyed seeing so many of you at our "Touching Bases" activity. I appreciated the many positive comments shared with me on behalf of the faculty and staff. Teacher Appreciation Week is just around the corner, May 4-10, so I would encourage you to take a few minutes to personally thank your child's teachers for all they do. I have the pleasure of seeing our teachers in action every day and continue to be awed by the level of their expertise and commitment to the students of Herndon Middle. We are so fortunate!

I am very elated to announce our Vocational Technology Program recently received an award as one of the top "Vocational Technology" programs in the nation. Herndon Middle School was one of only thirty schools recognized and the only school in the state of Virginia. Congratulations to our outstanding vocational technology teachers and students.

Transitions are a tradition of spring which is a great time for renewal and growth. It's exciting to see our middle school students grow and mature both socially and emotionally. However, we also see them sometimes easily distracted, allowing their motivation to waiver. Your attention and support of our dress code and Positive Behavior Support program will help us give the majority of our attention to instruction. It's appropriate that we renew our commitment to work together so that our children stay on track and lay a strong foundation for next school year.

We have made a small modification to our "Kiss and Ride" procedures for dropping students off in the mornings. We have made the turn from 5th Street to Locust right turn only to alleviate the traffic congestion on Locust Street. This change has made a significant difference with drop off traffic in the morning. Thanks again for all of your support.

Our new Standards of Learning testing (SOL) window is from May 19th through June 13th this year. We should start paper and pencil testing on May 20th. This year, all mathematics and reading will be on line as well as US History for 7th graders. Only 8th grade science and civics will be tested using paper and pencil. Students will take their on line tests based on their present class schedule with two testing sessions daily. Due to the small window, please try to have students in school during SOL testing.

Fairfax County Public Schools has redesigned the Summer School program this year. Students who do not pass all of their classes or are not successful on the SOL's will be allowed to go to summer school. This year, we are hosting a site for students that fit into one of these categories. The dates for summer school are July 21 through August 8, only three weeks this year.

I hope you take time out of your busy schedule to enjoy the beautiful spring season.

Sincerely,
Frank G. Jenkins, Ed.D.

2007-2008 PTA Officers

Nancy DerSimonian - President
Kerri Gilmore Mesiah - Vice President
Carol Sinclair - Secretary
Diana Fields - Treasurer

From the HMS PTA Nominating Committee:

The current slate of officers for the 2008-2009 HMS PTA are:

Nancy DerSimonian – President
Kerri Gilmore Mesiah – Vice President
Carol Sinclair - Secretary
Diana Fields – Treasurer

The PTA will be voting on these officers for next year at the May 7th HMS PTA meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact Lee Fortna, Nominating Committee Chair, at Leefortna@comcast.net.

Grade-level PTA Liaisons

7th grade:
Kathy Blystone
bblystone@cox.net
Karen Temple
gtempl@msn.com

8th grade:
Ann Marie Ruskin
AMR9000@aol.com
Lesley Aschenbach
Lesleyasch@prodigy.net

Your liaisons communicate with you via email and keep you informed of upcoming events pertaining to your grade level. See newsletter articles for more info.

From Your PTA President

The PTA welcomes Spring with Spirit!

For those who believe that school spirit exists only at the elementary and high school levels, I challenge them to take a look at the abundance of spirit alive and well at Herndon Middle School. And, to add to that spirit, the HMS PTA is offering several opportunities for our school community, i.e. students, faculty, staff and parents, to come together as one and foster friendships, camaraderie, and happy memories during the short time your child is in attendance at HMS.

Speaking of “foster”ing, the HMS PTA has decided to hold, for the first time ever, Spirit Nights. We chose to have these fundraisers at Foster’s Grille, located in Herndon. Our first spirit night was on March 11th. I enjoyed seeing so many members of our school community there who were having fun with old friends, making new ones, and relishing a delicious meal that was prepared for them! Please mark your calendars for the upcoming spirit nights on April 8th and May 13th, again at Foster’s Grille. The restaurant donates 10% of the proceeds raised that night to the HMS PTA. Together we can all do our part for the sake of the children.

Another opportunity to show your school spirit is the multi-basketball game event against Langston Hughes Middle School. On Friday, March 28th at South Lakes High School, come and cheer on the HMS Hawks as our 7th grade team, 8th grade team, and, yes, you guessed it, the faculty team play against their peers from Langston Hughes. This night has all the makings for good old-fashioned fun, and abounding SPIRIT, so wear red and black. The more who come, the merrier it will be. Make sure you mark your calendar!

Finally, the spirit evidenced by many of you by answering my request for additional members to the PTA and Go for the Gold (GFTG) donations did not go unnoticed. Thank you to those who responded. As always, it is never too late to join the PTA and/or donate to the GFTG program.

On another note, the PTA had a very informative February meeting with a presentation on adolescent drug and alcohol abuse, with a vast display of paraphernalia confiscated from students. Many of us left the meeting somewhat discouraged because there are many forces working against the teachings that we, as parents, are instilling in our kids. But, we must be vigilant and know where our kids are and who they’re hanging around with, and if something doesn’t sit right with you, then most likely, it isn’t. Trust your instincts. No one knows your child better than you.

Our next PTA meeting will be on April 2nd at 7pm. During our May 7th PTA meeting, we will hold board elections for the next year and we will have a presentation regarding attempts to change the Fairfax County grading scale. This is a very hot topic and I encourage you to attend to get a better understanding. We hope to see you at these meetings.

I hope you had a relaxing Spring Break. SOL season is right around the corner. Please take time to enjoy your family and your children and take some time to relax. We need our children refreshed and ready to finish out the 3rd and 4th quarters.

Thanks and have a great April and May!
Nancy DerSimonian
HMS PTA President
ndersimonian@cox.com, 703-437-8254

Tech Ed wins 2nd Award

The technology education program at Herndon Middle has been given the program excellence award by the International Technology Education Association and the National Association of Secondary School Principals. The award is the most prestigious given in recognition of technology education programs in the U.S. The Herndon Middle program was recognized as one of the top technology programs in the country and was the only program from Virginia recognized by the two groups. This is the second award for the program, which was also recognized by the Virginia Technology Education Association (VTEA) last summer. James Galton and James Bullock (retired) were honored as teachers of the year by the VTEA.

SCA News

The HMS Talent Show will be on Friday, April 4th, along with "Wear Your Sunglasses Day"! The SCA is very excited about another GREAT Talent Show this year!

The SCA is also in the process of painting the 8th Grade Wall. The 8th Grade Wall should be finished by the end of March and all 8th Graders will be able to sign in through their PE classes! Come check out the 8th Grade Wall!

Herndon vs. Langston Hughes Basketball Game

Come cheer on our students and faculty at the upcoming basketball game between Herndon Middle and Langston Hughes.

The game will be Friday, March 28th starting at 6 pm at South Lakes High School (doors open at 5:30). Tickets are \$5 at the door (no pre-sales). Children 3 and under enter for free, as well as performing groups and players/coaches. There will be



drinks, pizza, and candy for sale. 7th graders will play first, then the 8th graders, and of course, the faculty game is last! Come support your school!!

The new HMS t-shirts will be sold at the game for \$10. They can also be purchased during all lunches from March 24th to the 28th. **Go HMS! Go Hawks, beat those Panthers!**

Miss Virginia coming to HMS

Mark your calendars! Miss Virginia is coming to Herndon Middle School. The HMS Girls Group is proud to welcome Miss Virginia to HMS on Thursday, April 3rd at 2:30pm. All HMS students are invited to join us in the gym for a talk given by Miss Virginia. Come listen as Miss Virginia talks about the importance of making "Healthy Choices" in our lives.

After School Math 7 Skill Sessions

The 7th grade math teachers have developed an after-school plan to help students review math skills. Each Monday two 7th grade math teachers will present and review a specific math topic that has previously been introduced in math this year. Any 7th grader, regardless of their team, may attend. All skill areas are offered twice so that students can attend all skill lessons, if desired. Please see your math teachers for the dates and topics for April and May.

HMS Spirit Nights

The HMS PTA is sponsoring a series of HMS Spirit Nights at Foster's Grill located at 905 Herndon Parkway in Herndon. The first one was March 11th. The rest will be on the second Tuesday of the month in April and May – April 8th and May 13th from 5 to 9pm. Foster's Grille will donate 10% of all proceeds from sales generated by all customers associated with HMS. Just tell your server you're from Herndon Middle. So put on your red

April/May Calendar continued

May 15th
Chorus Spring Concert, 7pm, Auditorium

May 16th
8th grade field trips

May 19th - June 13th
SOL testing

May 26th
Memorial Day
No School

and black, catch up with your friends and let Foster's Grille cook dinner for you while raising money for HMS.

HMS After-School Programs

We would like to congratulate our HMS Step-Team for earning 3rd place among other middle schools competing in the 9th annual step competition held in the West Potomac High School gym. STOMP OUT underage drinking! was the theme for the event.

We're currently having our 3rd annual World Cup Soccer Tournament after-school which is being well attended by our students. They are enjoying themselves and they look forward to participating in the soccer league after school.

We require our students who participate in the after-school program to spend one day after school with one of their core teachers for academic assistance unless they are on the AB Honor Roll. Students who are in need of additional academic assistance received notice from the After-School Specialist in the form of a letter letting them know they are required to spend 2 days a week with a teacher in order to participate in the after-school program. Students must show their teacher's signature located in their planner on the day they stayed after in order to participate.

The HMS basketball team to represent HMS in the annual basketball game versus Langston Hughes Middle School on March 28 at South Lakes High School was chosen from players who participated in the after-school basketball league.

Our after-school program continues to have a great relationship with the Herndon Community Center and on Tuesdays and Fridays, we bus students there. We require parent pick up by 6 pm or parents can give their children permission to walk home.

If you have any questions about our after-school programs, please contact Michael Thomas, After-School Program Specialist at Herndon Middle School.

Annual Music Dept Fundraiser

The HMS Music Department Annual Blowout Fundraiser kicked off March 11th!!! Through Lavendars, www.lavendars.com, students will be selling a variety of quality merchandise: gifts, flowers, pies, cheesecakes, cookies, candies, snacks and more! Contact any Band, Chorus or Orchestra student for more info - they will be thrilled as the more they raise, the better their chances are for fabulous prizes!! Fundraiser ends April 1st - get your orders in now! Catalogs and order forms are also available outside the music offices. The music department appreciates your support.

HMS Band News

Congratulations to our band students for their fine performances at the District 12 Band Festival held on February 29th and March 1st at Kenmore Middle School in Arlington. The Concert and Symphonic Bands played 3 prepared pieces and 1 sight-reading piece for a panel of 4 band judges. The judges awarded both bands the Superior rating, which is the highest

rating possible. Way to go, HMS bands!

HMS Orchestra News

Congratulations go out to the members of the Herndon Middle School Concert and Symphonic Orchestras. At their performance at the District XII Orchestra Festival, the HMS Concert Orchestra earned an overall rating of Excellent while the HMS Symphonic Orchestra earned a rating of Superior with straight 1 scores from the judges. These young musicians are to be commended for a job well done!

The Orchestra Festival was hosted and chaired by the orchestras of Herndon High School and Herndon Middle School on March 5th to 8th.

HMS Chorus Notes

District Chorus

Congratulations are in order for the following students who sang as part of the select District Chorus choir at Herndon High School on Friday, February 8th & Saturday February 9th: Emily Clark, Colin Curtis, Timothy Eisnaugle, Carson Etienne, Robin Falci, Amy Freeman, Olivia Jewell, Nina Kappel, Carlos Moriera, Usama Nadir, Shammah Okai, Nicole Ollerhead, Ella Rutanen, Brandon Timbrook, Jack Wei Mo and Emma Withers. Alternates included Justine Chester and Katie Lang. These fine singers studied & learned their music beforehand, arrived Friday morning, and by Saturday afternoon, were ready to go; singing under the direction of Dan LeJeune. The choristers sang in four languages performing repertoire spanning the Renaissance to the present day. Kudos!

Pyramid Concert

The HMS Intermediate Women, HMS Advanced Women, and HMS Men's Choirs performed as part of the annual Pyramid Concert at Herndon High School on Thursday, February 28th. This concert is part

of an effort to demonstrate the music learning curve between the elementary through the high school years. Students love singing for each other, and our middles especially love being seen on stage in their tuxedos for their particular elementary schools! All three choirs sang brilliantly and Ms. McCann received lots of positive and enthusiastic feedback from the other Chorus Directors in the District. Bravo to all three choirs!

District Festival

Right on the coat-tails of District Chorus, the entire HMS Advanced Women's Choir performed at Oakton High School on Feb. 29th, performing for a panel of three distinguished judges for the District XII Choral Festival. After singing their three selections with winning gusto, and receiving a verbal critique and mini-lesson with a select judge, the young women were whisked into a separate room to be tested as a group for their ability to sight-read (new piece of music: 20 seconds to study.... then go! sing together! correct pitches! watch those rhythms!) Even under intense pressure, the girls sang brilliantly and their combined scores for performance and sight-singing yielded an overall rating of EXCELLENT! Congratulations to each and every one of them - Ms. McCann is very proud.

Stay Tuned

While our next official performance is May 2nd, the annual Busch Gardens Competition, a date may be set for early-to-mid April for an additional festive performance!

Email

Are you receiving email from us? If not, please let Ms. McCann know ASAP at regina.mccann@fcps.edu or call her on (703) 904-4866.

Summer Band Camp

Have you started thinking about how your child is going to spend his/her summer? How about band camp?

This is a wonderful opportunity for students to continue playing, and polish skills they've worked hard to acquire during the school year. Students will gain confidence for next year, and interact with like-minded students. Here is some basic information concerning two of our local and reasonably priced camps:

Vienna Band Camp - held at Longfellow Middle School, Monday through Friday, June 23 - July 17, from 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Cost is \$180 before June 13th, \$200 after the 13th. Contact: Richard.Sanger@fcps.edu.

Franklin Band Camp – to be held at Franklin MS, Monday through Friday, June 23 - July 18, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Cost is \$160 if paid before June 13th, \$170 after that.

There are application forms in the band room and your child is welcome to take them. Please consider this great opportunity!

Sharon J. Bonneau
Director of Bands, HMS

Franklin Band and Orchestra Camp

Some additional information on Franklin Music Camp:

Students will study the following instruments:

- All brass, woodwinds, percussion and string Instruments

The camp is offered to the following Band and String students:

- Grades 3rd – 10th
- Beginning Band / Orchestra
- Cadet Band / Orchestra
- Concert Band / Orchestra
- Symphonic Band / Orchestra

Activity:

- Four classes daily
- Two ensemble classes
- One instrument class (equal to a private lesson)

- One sectional class
- Two master Classes with professional musicians
- Lunch from 11:00 – 11:30
- All students receive a camp t-shirt
- Final concert featuring all performing ensembles July 18th

Parents interested in an application can obtain one from your school's Band or Orchestra director, the Franklin Website, <http://www.fcps.edu/FranklinMS/franklin.htm>, or call Lawrence Walker at Franklin Middle School 703-904-5145. (Please leave your name, address with zip code and phone number on the voice mail. An application will be mailed.)

8th Grade Dance

Planning is underway for the 8th Grade Dance on Friday, June 13th.

If you'd like to be on the committee or need more information, please contact Lesley. Further details will be announced soon.

Lesley Aschenbach,
8th Grade Dance Chair
Lesleyasch@prodigy.net
703-787-9159

Student Exhibition at GRACE

HMS art students from Ms. Simanski and Mr. Torrenzano's art classes are currently exhibiting their work as part of *Emerging Visions: Adolescent Self-Portraiture* at Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE). The student artists include: Kent Auslander, Nick Botz, Arnaf Hassan, Marcus Hupe, Maggie Middleton, Francesca Polito, Nicole Sherman, Farrah Siddiqui, Adam Ward, and Amie Wood as well as students from Mr. Torrenzano's class.

The exhibition runs until March 28th. Please stop by to view art work by some of our students in a professional setting. GRACE is located at Reston Town Center, 12001 Market St, Suite 103. For

more information contact GRACE at 703-471-9242 or www.restonarts.org.

The art club delivered three murals to the satellite facilities of FCPS Department of Facilities Management Services at 397 Herndon Parkway and had a party to celebrate

HMS Student Accepted into People to People Academic Program

Brenda Arraya-Franco, a student at Herndon Middle School, was accepted into the People to People World Leadership Forum. Arraya-Franco joined a selected group of students in Washington, D.C., March 3-9, 2008 to earn high school credit while studying leadership and exploring some of the United States' most prominent monuments and institutions.

Brenda was nominated and accepted for the honor based on outstanding scholastic merit, civic involvement and leadership potential.

The program is coordinated by People to People Student Leader Programs to fulfill the vision President Dwight D. Eisenhower had for fostering world citizenship when he founded People to People during his presidency in 1956.

Driver Safety Presentation at HHS

The thought of our middle schoolers behind the wheel may seem like a long way off...but, the reality is that some of our children are just a year away from receiving their Learners Permit. And once in high school, many children ride with teenage drivers. The following is an important program sponsored by the Herndon High School PTSA and S.A.F.E.-D. We hope you are able to attend this timely and important parent program!

“How to Keep Your Teenager Alive” A presentation for parents and teenagers on how to prevent teenage driving accidents and fatalities

Tuesday, April 1, 2008, 7 pm,
Herndon HS Lecture Hall
Presented by Herndon High School
PTSA and S.A.F.E.-D

Your 16-19 year old is more likely to be killed or injured in a car crash than any other type of activity. Just this past fall, 13 teens were killed in the Capitol region in a one month period. Many of these deaths and injuries could have been prevented. This is a teen health crisis that must be addressed to prevent further loss of life. The presentation will focus on why teen drivers are more at risk than ever, and how parents can help prevent the possibility of getting that phone call every parent dreads.

The program is not affiliated with any school system or the driver's education curriculum. It features a non-biased, reality look, at the issues relating to teenage driving. Mike McClanahan, Executive Director of S.A.F.E.-D will talk about what factors contribute to crashes, tips for parents on coaching their teenage driver during their first years of being behind the wheel, tips for teens on how to "Arrive Alive," laws and consequences, and other life-saving information.

This is a very important program for all parents, as well as current and future teen drivers!

Headquartered in Fairfax County, S.A.F.E.-D is a non-profit organization that is dedicated and committed to making teens and their parents aware of the consequences, affects, and responsibility of driving.

HMS Yearbook

We have ordered limited copies of the 2007-2008 Herndon Middle School Yearbook and have already sold more than half of them! Please order yours now.

Checks can be mailed to the school; **Casson Hersh; Yearbook Advisor; 901 Locust St., Herndon, Va. 20170** or sent in with your child in a sealed envelope and delivered to the *front office*. After processing your check, we will see that a receipt is given to your child's 3rd period teacher to go home with your child.

Get your photos in the yearbook

Parents, would you like to add your own photos into the yearbook? We need images of your student for the following three spreads: Sports, Holidays, and Weekends

There is no guarantee we will be able to use your image, however if it's a good one, we'll try our best to fit it in. Unfortunately we're up

against a tight deadline, and all images need to be received by April 4th.

Please either email the image to herndonby@gmail.com or send in a disposable copy to either Mr. Hersh or a member of the yearbook staff. Please be sure to include a little information about what's happening in the photo.

Thank you very much for your support, and we look forward to delivering your child's yearbook at the end of the school year!

College Partnership Program

On Monday, March 10th the CPP program went on their annual college tour. This year the program went to NOVA's Medical Campus in Springfield, VA. Mr. Don Johnson, an Outreach Specialist for NOVA, greeted us and spoke about the various careers for which this campus prepares students. We then proceeded to tour the various labs in which students train. We visited the nursing lab, the emergency medical technicians lab, dental assistants and hygienists labs, physical therapy assistants labs and the lab where medical lab technicians train.

Mr. Johnson was very informative and gave us lots of information about the academic training that occurred in each lab. All in all it was

2007-2008 Herndon Middle School Yearbook

Cost for the 2007-2008 Yearbook is now \$40.

Please fill out the information below to ensure we can keep track of your information:

Name as Appears on Check _____ Check # _____
Student's Legal Name _____
Student's 3rd Period Teacher _____
Telephone Number: _____

Please make your check payable to Herndon Middle School. Memo *Yearbook* on your check.

a wonderful learning experience for the College Partnership students. The students got to see up close and personal how various medical technicians learn their craft.

The remainder of the schedule is:

- April 28** - Self Esteem/Self Assessment Activities
- May 28** - Writing Skills Activity/ Student Evaluation
- June 9 - End of Year Activity

Survivors

Survivors is an after school program for middle school students to participate in positive team building exercises, leadership skills, problem solving and all around skill building. The program was designed by Cindy Rapp to help students "survive middle school" and outside school life through their teen years. The curriculum is designed from numerous sources and experiences Ms. Rapp has had in different settings. Ms. Rapp has partnered up with a former student at the beginning of the year in the creation of the group.

Several students were hand picked by this student and Ms. Rapp to be "council" and actually plan and implement the lessons for the large group. With outside community help, initiated by Gabriela Posada, students participate in DJ club alongside a formal lesson and hands on team building exercise. With the help of World Vision, Survivors is becoming community involved with toy drives at Christmas and other future endeavors. The large group meets on Mondays at 2:30 in room 109 and council meets on Thursday in room 140.

Gabriel Posada and the Survivors were recently featured in a lengthy article in the Herndon *Observer*.

News from Battle of the Books

The "Battle of the Books" quizzes



were taken during the HML period on Monday, March 10, 2008. A large number of students have volunteered to compete and represent their teams. This contest will take place during the week of April 21st and the exact day will be announced later.

Hispanic Parents Nights

HMS Hispanic Parents are invited to join the Herndon High School Hispanic Parents Nights. Most of the information presented is relevant to both age groups. Meetings are held monthly at the Neighborhood Resource Center at 1086 Elden Street in Herndon from 7 to 8:30pm. If you need more information, please contact Erla Reyes, HMS Parent Liaison at 703-904-4914 or erla.reyes@fcps.edu.

Thursday, April 17 at 7 pm

Topic - Career Center resources, Academy information, Internships
Presenters/Guests – South Lakes Transitional ESOL High School; Matt Nizio from Northern VA Community College, Linda Boyke, Career Center Specialist HHS; Liberty's Promise

Thursday, May 22 at 7 pm

Topic - Summer programs
Presenters/Guests – Herndon Community Center, Teen Center, REC-PAC, and other summer programs

Noche Hispana de Padres

Se invita a los padres hispanos de Herndon Middle School a las Reuniones de Padres de Herndon High School. La mayor parte de la información presentada es pertinente a ambos grupos de edad. Las reuniones se llevaran acabo a las 7 p.m. en el Centro del Recurso de la Vecindad (Neighborhood Resource Center) localizado en 1086 Elden Street en Herndon. Si necesita más información, por favor llame a Erla Reyes, Contacto Hispano de HMS al (703) 904-4914.

Jueves, 17 de abril

Recursos del Centro de Carreras, Información Sobre la Academia, Programas de Prácticas de Trabajo (Internships)

Jueves, 22 de mayo

Programas de Verano

Free Sports & Camp Physicals

May 31, 2008
Hours: 9am – 2pm
Any type of physical required for school or camps!

Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic
500 Grove Street – Suite 330
Herndon, VA 20172

Patients who qualify live in Herndon, Reston, Chantilly, or Centreville, have no insurance and a household income of 200% or less of the federal poverty level. Nurses, doctors, interpreters, community service volunteers, teen volunteers needed/welcomed.

Call to schedule appointment at 703-481-8160 ext.1 If you would like to volunteer call 703-481-8160 ext.2

This service is not sponsored nor endorsed by the Fairfax County School Board, the Superintendent, or this school.

Boundary Study

The School Board has voted to adopt the staff recommendation for the West County Boundary Study. **This option involved no change to Herndon High School.** Pending any legal challenges, this boundary change will be implemented in Fall 2008.

Thank you to everyone who came out in support of Herndon High School, and contacted the School Board expressing your views!

Herndon is, and will continue to be, a Successful, Balanced Community!

FAIRGRADE Grading Policy Presentation for Parents

A group of Fairfax County parents is asking the School Board and staff to review the current high school grading policy. FAIRGRADE would like Fairfax County schools to convert to a 10-point grading scale (90-100 = A) from its current 7-point policy (94-100 = A; 90-93 = B+). Other area school districts, including Arlington County and Montgomery County (MD), have the 10-point scale, and give an additional 0.5 weighted grade for Honors classes, and 1.0 weighted grade for Advanced Placement classes. Fairfax County gives 0.5 weighted grade for Advanced Placement classes only, and nothing for Honors classes.

FAIRGRADE claims that Fairfax County students are penalized by the current grading policy in admissions to college Honors programs, NCAA eligibility, car insurance premiums, and merit scholarships. All these issues are determined on strict GPA criteria, with no exceptions or allowances for grading scales.

A presentation by FAIRGRADE representatives will be sponsored by the Herndon pyramid PTAs on Wednesday, May 7th at 7:30 pm in the Herndon Middle School Auditorium. Parents of all FCPS students – especially those students currently in elementary and middle school – are encouraged to attend this important program, and learn more about the grading policies, and how they affect your children.

Please note that this presentation reflects the opinions of this group and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of Herndon Middle School or the HMS PTA.

FCPS Regional Parent Meeting

Fairfax County Public Schools will present a regional parent meeting Saturday, April 5, from 8:30 am to

noon at Chantilly High School. The meeting is designed to share strategies for increasing student success, to enhance home-school communication, to provide curriculum information for parents, and to gather feedback from families. Free child care and light refreshments will be provided.

Representatives from FCPS and community organizations and agencies will provide families with specific information about services and community resources. The events will offer the opportunity for parents and the school system to learn from each other and strengthen the school-family relationship while supporting student achievement.

The meeting is free to all FCPS families; however, advance registration is required, because space is limited. Register at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/parents.htm>. These meetings are part of an ongoing effort to enhance family-school connections.

7th Grade Parent Liaisons

We hope those of you who are already on the email distribution list have found the email messages sent out to be informative and helpful.

If you are not already on our 7th grade parent database, we would like to include your email address. Please send an email message to bblystone@cox.net to list your email address with us. You may include multiple email addresses (work, home, etc.) However, please notify us of any email address changes and updates.

Any questions, please feel free to contact the email address listed above.

Kathy Blystone and Karen Temple
HMS PTA 7th Grade Parent Liaisons

8th Grade Parent Liaisons

If you're not already on the 8th grade parent database, be sure to send your email address to AMR9000@aol.com so you don't miss important information about year end activities, as well as high school information. It's a good idea to check the Herndon High School web site regularly for important information, as well as a sense of what's going on at the high school, <http://www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/>.

The web site is an invaluable tool - it's updated daily -- for parents. Check the daily announcements; check the sites for parent groups and Booster groups; read about student and faculty achievement. Take some time and browse through the web site.

Make a note of the dates below:

- Aug 27 Freshman & New Student Orientation (approx. time 8:30 am)
- Aug 27 Freshman/New Parent Orientation 6pm
- Sept 18 Herndon High School Back to School Night
- Oct 18 HHS Homecoming Parade, 9:30 am
Football Game, 1 pm
Dance, 8:30 pm

Important High School Sports and Activities Information

Fall activities in high school (sports, marching band, ROTC) begin in August. Most coaches and advisors do not allow students to miss practices/tryouts for summer vacation plans. Check your plans now and make adjustments if necessary.

Students trying out for a fall sport must have a Virginia High School League (VHSL) physical form completed by a doctor. The physical exam must be after May 1st. The form can be picked up at the HHS Activities Office, or downloaded from the Herndon HS web site at <http://www.herndonathletics.org/files/2007CompletePhysicalForm.pdf>.

Start dates are listed below. Additional dates will be updated as necessary.

- Aug 1 Golf Team begins
- Aug 5 Cross Country, Volleyball, Varsity Football, JV Football, Cheerleading, Dance Team and Field Hockey begin
- Aug 6 Freshman Marching Band Camp begins
- Aug 11 Marching Band Camp for all band members begins
- Aug 12 Freshman Football begins or 19

Ann Marie Ruskin and
Lesley Aschenbach
HMS PTA 8th Grade Parent Liaisons

Hospitality

The 2nd Quarter Honor Roll Receptions on February 27th and 28th were a BIG success! Once again the students and their parents were served quite an assortment of treats. These receptions are a great way to celebrate the accomplishments of the kids, and let them know what a tremendous job they're doing.

The 3rd Quarter Honor Roll Receptions will be held on April 28th

for 8th grade and April 29th for 7th grade from 8 - 9 am. If your child is on the Honor Roll and you would like to help with the receptions, please send us an email. Please include your name, phone number and your child's name and grade.

On March 6th, we hosted a luncheon for the teachers and staff before Touching Bases. Dr. Jenkins bought the pizza and the PTA provided salads and desserts. As always, everyone was very appreciative and we'd like to thank those who donated food or lent a helping-hand.

Our final hospitality event of the year is quickly approaching. We will be hosting a luncheon for the entire HMS staff in conjunction with Teacher Appreciation Week, May 5-9. We will be sending out more details about this event after Spring Break.

Marilyn Currence
MBCurrence@comcast.net
Jeanne Talbot
jeannetalbot@verizon.net
HMS Hospitality Committee Co-Chairs

2008 - 2009 HMS PTA

We are still looking for current and new parents to fill many committee chair positions for the coming year. Don't want to do it by yourself? Consider doing it with a friend. Current open positions include: Directory, Newsletter, Magazine Drive co-chair, Membership, PTA website administrator, 7th Grade Touching Bases co-chair, 7th Grade Parent Liaison, 8th Grade Hospitality co-chair, 8th Grade Dance, Orchestra Liaison, Superintendent's Council Representative, Special Education Liaison, and Hispanic Liaison.

Anyone interested in serving on the PTA, please contact Nancy DerSimonian at 703-437-8254 or ndersimonian@cox.net

Go for the Gold Update

Thanks to all who have supported the HMS PTA's only fundraiser, *Go for the Gold* program. We currently have received \$5,120 toward our budgeted goal of \$5,010. THANK YOU! This program runs all year, so if you would like to make a tax free donation to the PTA and Herndon Middle School, please send it to HMS PTA, 901 Locust Street, Herndon, VA 20170.

Join the HMS PTA today
It's not too late!

Complete this form and return it with your check made payable to HMS PTA.

Mail to: 901 Locust Street; Herndon, Virginia 20170; or send it with your child to the main office in an envelope marked HMS PTA Membership.

Names _____ Student Name _____

Grade _____ Team _____ Parent Email _____

Phone Number _____ \$10 per person x No. of persons _____ = \$ _____

Go for the Gold Donation = \$ _____

Total Donation/Membership = \$ _____

Questions – contact Lesley Aschenbach, PTA Membership Chair, lesleyasch@prodigy.net, 703-787-9159

8th GRADE HONOR ROLL

A Honor Roll

Emily Clark
Brendan Craig
Ryan Culberson
Thomas Huang

Denise Lee
Nicole Ollerhead
Amanda Pascarelli
Peter Roberts

Nathan Smith
Avery Wauben

A/B Honor Roll

Wahab Ahad
Nadia Ahmadi
Shamim Ahmed
Joshua Albertson
Samantha Allen
Kiera Andrews
Megan Anthony
Syed Arshad
Rashad Assir
Matthew Banks
Rachel Baroody
Emily Beacham
Alexander Bednarek
Jorge Bonilla Lopez
Scott Booma
Corinne Burtschi
Nathan Caballero
Crystal Chu
John Clarke
Domonique Collins
Benjamin Cronin
Elena Currence
Christopher Dickerson
Robin Falci
Kaija Flood
Brian Fortna
Hannah Frinks
Maninder Garcha
Kathleen Garcia
Ashley Gardner
Mina Girgis
Christopher Glazier
Caitlin Graney
Ashley Grupenhoff
Jairo Guzman Melendez
Sanam Hashemi
Sarah Haskell
Deborah Headen

Eddie Henriquez
Eric Hensley
Parker Hill
Thomas Hitchings
Kylee Horstman
Meagan Huntington
Zoe Jones
Hannah Kaplan
Kayla Kent
Leta Kent
Sri Ranga Aruna Kodakalla
Elle Krueger
Mandar Kulkarni
Zachary Landrum
Ariana-Sophia Lauer
Nicole Lee
Walter Little
Julia Lloyd
Clark Madden
Fahduma Majid
Andrew Mangiacarne
Lia-Marie Marmolejos
Philip Meyers
Patrick Miller
Emma Miller-Cvilikas
Katherine Morales Corcios
Abigale Mullet
Dominic Napoleon
Bridget Newell
Oray Nicolai
Timothy Nixon
Ella Novoselsky
Patrick O'Bryan
Emily O'Rourke
Carrie Ortel
Anastasia Pechler
Elizabeth Pelishek
Ashley Pelletier

Elizabeth Peterson
Brett Petty
Alexander Polk
Samantha Posey
Anne Pursifull
Ariane Rahim
Sophia Rahman
Tyler Reif
Neil Reyes
Melkin Rivas Hernandez
Eunice Rodriguez Serpas
Katie Rosenbaum
Nicole Russell
Alexis Salgado
Christopher Sawatzki
Taylor Shannon
Prateek Sharma
Jasjeet Singh
Sapna Singh
Matthew Smith
Alexis Sneed
Zachary Talbot
Hameed Talebian
Carolyn Tran
Benson Truong
Sasha Vasquez
Morgan Volpe
Zachary Wallace
Brigitte Waugaman
Nathan Wei
Caitlin Williams
Ben Wilson
Spencer Wilson
Emma Withers
Joseph Yanosky
Rasha Yousifauni

7th GRADE HONOR ROLL

A Honor Roll

Sean Arney
 Kent Auslander
 Emily Blum
 Tarryn Chichester
 Allison Dyke
 Jamie Fico
 Silviu Florea

Amy Freeman
 Lauren Gabriel
 Joshua Glazier
 Faizah Hoque
 Syed Hossain
 Samuel Jens
 Katherine Lang

Gillian Linden
 Yasmine Maggio
 Kurt Meyers
 Harshini Pyata
 Katherine Reilly
 Adam Rosenberg
 Valerie Seidel

Nicole Sherman
 Farah Siddiqui
 Rachael Stempfley
 Brandon Timbrook
 Lijia Zhan

A/B Honor Roll

Rehan Ahmed
 Adrian Ahn
 Mayra Alas Romero
 Rodolfo Alfaro
 Kyle Alger
 Nabil Ali
 Montserrat Alvarez
 Jose Andrade
 Sarosh Aqeel
 Matthew Arace
 Steven Archambeault
 Brenda Arraya Franco
 Connor Ashby
 Asiah Assaad
 Edwin Barahona
 Joseph Bartlam
 Zhilakhan Barzani
 Jacob Bennett
 William Bisbee
 Rebeca Bonilla
 Robert Borde
 Kaitlin Bradford
 Olivia Brady
 Stephanie Brininstool
 John Carlson
 India Chan
 Jo Chontal Coenen
 Erin Conner
 Ivania Constanza
 Maria Corrales Gonzalez
 Hannah Coyne
 Meghan Craig
 Conor Cudahy
 Colin Curtis
 Julia Diaz-Perez
 John Druitt
 Olivia Dunne

Gabriel Elmisurati
 Jonathan Ericson
 Gregory Eubank
 Emily Evans
 Marina Fernandez Lemus
 Mary Fleming
 Stefany Flores Salazar
 Kelly Galloway
 Vanessa Garcia Gazo
 Bilel Gdoura
 Sydnee Gordon
 Georgina Greenleaf
 Anidith Guevara Chira
 Daniela Guillen
 Austin Harley
 Ahnaf Hassan
 Monica Herrera Montano
 Bradley Heuer
 Katherine Hinders
 Brian Hrozencik
 Amanda Huelskamp
 Curtis Indyke
 Whitney Irish
 MaryFay Jackson
 Pongdanai Jumpaburi
 Nina Kappel
 Katherine Kashinsky
 Patrick Keating
 Conner Keesling
 Cynthia Kim
 Jacob Kudeviz
 Olivia Leshock
 Nika Lomidze
 Grant Luong
 Breaua Marshall
 Sean Mathews
 Elizabeth McCauley

Megan McCoy
 Deirdre McDonough
 Erik McLeod
 Brian Medrano
 Brayan Mendoza Oliva
 Lauren Michaely
 Margaret Middleton
 Conlan Miller
 Jack Mo
 Tavgeh Najad
 Mohammad
 Kathryn Moran
 Kate Morris
 Victoria Morris
 Brianna Moses
 Noelle Muha
 Talha Muhammad
 Pakiza Naeem
 Trang Tiffany Ngo
 Andrew O'Connell
 Jeffrey O'Connell
 Joy Oti
 Megan Overton
 Natalia Palacios
 Frank Henry Paredes
 Matthew Pavlecka
 Britney Phekoo
 Fletcher Phillips
 Matthew Phillips
 Margaret Purnhagen
 Claudia Quinteros Rivas
 Emily Radomski
 Ahmed Radwan
 Nevia Ramos Villaelvir
 Irene Regalario
 Aminta Reyes
 Jennifer Reyes-Rubio

Cameron Reynolds
 Cody Riggs
 Marguerite Sagan
 Olivia Savage
 Clayton Sayre
 Margaret Schaaf
 Austin Schnarrs
 Jonathan Seng
 Jessica Serrao
 Yana Seryakova
 Margaret Shaw
 Lisa Sheffer
 Ellie Shelton
 Lauren Sherrod
 Mayumi Shill
 Khalil Simpkins
 Pranjala Singh
 Mario Sorto-Cabrera
 Jared Spencer
 Eric Stewart
 Sarah Strangfeld
 Anna Szima
 Kaitlynne Temple
 Lauren Truese
 Paul Truong
 Kunnal Vashisht
 Clelia Vasquez Cotrina
 Thomas Vollaro
 Adam Ward
 Zachary Ward
 Arusa Waseem
 Ryan White
 William Wood
 Nathan Wycoff
 An Yan
 Arol Yanez Banos
 Paul Zettersten



Hawks of the Month

January and February

These students were selected based on how well they demonstrate the six pillars of character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Fairness and Citizenship.

Thunderbirds

January Hawk: Erin Altschuler

Erin comes prepared for class, asks questions about unclear areas, works cooperatively with her classmates, stays after when she feels the need, and is always positive and mannerly. What a joy to have in our classes!

February Hawk: Irene Regalaro

Irene is a perfect example of a Thunderbird role model. She willingly helps and discusses class work with her peers, exerts effort in all areas of HMS, shows her thirst for learning, brings a positive presence to class and never forgets to smile!!

Roadrunners

January Hawk: William Wood III

William is a very diligent, hard-working student. In addition to always being pleasant and complimentary to others, he is always willing to help his peers with their work. We are lucky to have this student in our classrooms!!

February Hawk: Julia Diaz-Perez

Julia is a very focused student who is determined to succeed in all areas of her life and she is currently on track, always giving her best! She is a great role model for her peers and an excellent student in the classroom!

Raptors

January Hawk: Lijia Zhang

Lijia is a bright, thoughtful, quiet, creative and helpful student. She is an excellent problem solver, eager to assist others in need, makes sure that her work is of exceptional quality!

January Hawk: Jonathan Ericson

Jonathan is the type of student that makes HMS a great place. He is intelligent, full of insight, respectful and kind, and gives 100% to his academic endeavors. We are lucky to have him!

February Hawk: Gerard Jiao

Gerard is a capable, diligent student who is always willing to help his peers. He is a friendly, respectful young man who leads by example and is a fine representative of the Raptors!

February Hawk: Katie Reilly

Katie manages to have a beautiful smile on her face rain or shine and it quickly becomes infectious! She cares about her education and her fellow students and teachers and is willing at the drop of a hat to go above and beyond to support them!

ESOL

January Hawk: Karen Ayala Cruz

In the short time Karen has been in the US, she has gone from understanding nothing in English to being able to have simple conversations with others. This is a testament to her

outstanding attitude, stark determination and real desire to succeed – add her bright smile to that mix and you have a perfect Hawk of the Month!

February Hawk: Jack Mo

Jack is conscientious and polite, independent and aware, and always enters class with a warm and sincere hello! He will willingly and graciously assist other students and teachers at any time they need support. It is truly a pleasure to recognize him as Hawk of the Month!

Falcons

January Hawk: Sandra Guirgis

Sandra is a very personable Falcon who is kind, smart, artistic, and serious about academics. She volunteered to tutor other bilingual students in reading, and because of her help these students are making improved progress in their classes. We are fortunate to have such a dynamic Falcon as Sandra!

February Hawk: Edson Roldan

Edson has a terrific sense of humor, and he uses it to make everyone's time spent at school more enjoyable, including the teachers! He is bright, cheerful, and careful when doing his work. Edson could be a Falcon spokesperson because he makes a fine impression upon anyone he meets.

Kestrels

January Hawk: Ryan Culberson

While Ryan sustains a high level of energy and enthusiasm for excellence that is contagious to his classmates, he is also generous with companionable assistance when others falter.

February Hawk: Elena Currence

A charismatic leader, Elena is the student the teacher counts on to persist, respectfully, with questions until a point or an assignment is clarified. The Kestrels are lucky to have her!

Eagles

January Hawk: Ariane Rahim

Ariane is an enhancement to the Eagles team not just because of her winsome personality. Her positive outlook, excellent work habits, creativity and independence of thought also make her an asset!

February Hawk: Arsalan Nureddin

Arsalan demonstrates an understanding of what makes an outstanding student. He is a questioner, an active participant, a self-advocate, and is consistently an exemplary member of the Eagles team.

Pelicans

January Hawk: Nicole Ollerhead

Nicole has a tremendous amount of enthusiasm for her education, and delights when she learns something new! Her work habits are an excellent example for her peers.

February Hawk: Thomas Huang

Thomas is one of the most polite students we have this year. He shows a great deal of maturity and is a high academic achiever! He is a great asset to the Pelican Team!



Town of Herndon launches “Herndon in Bloom”

This educational, promotional and operations program will be held during April and May to promote neighborhood beautification and property maintenance/upkeep. All Town citizens are encouraged to participate in

- **Extension of Town-wide spring cleanups. TWO opportunities for homeowners to get rid of clutter, with curbside pickup of large items on the following dates:**
 - **March 31-April 4 (north of bike trail)**
 - **April 7 – April 11 (south of bike trail)**
 - **April 14 – April 18 (north of bike trail)**
 - **April 21 – April 25 (south of bike trail)**
- **Workshops to be held at locations throughout Town and covering a range of home maintenance topics, from landscaping to painting to siding maintenance – visit www.herndon-va.gov for complete schedule**
- **A brochure outlining Town policies and procedures relative to home maintenance and upkeep, as well as “Good Neighbor” guidelines that enhance the quality of life in Town neighborhoods. Delivered door-to-door to all Town residences; Call 703/435-6800 X2010 to request extra copies.**

For more information, visit www.herndon-va.gov
or call 703/435-6800 X2010



Herndon Middle School
901 Locust Street
Herndon, VA 20170

Phone:
703-904-4800

www.fcps.edu/HerndonMS
www.herndonmiddleschoolpta.com

Honor, Maturity, Success



Reminder - SOL Testing May 19th - June 13th

Please try to avoid having your students miss school on these days. Make sure that they get a good night's sleep and eat a good breakfast so they are ready to do their best!

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage PAID
Herndon, VA 20170
Permit #12

Herndon Middle School
901 Locust Ave
Herndon, VA 20170
703.904.4800