

February / March 2008

## Mark your Calendar

### **February 4<sup>th</sup>**

Report cards mailed home

### **February 6<sup>th</sup>**

PTA Meeting, 7pm, Library

### **February 18<sup>th</sup>**

President's Day, School Holiday

### **February 20<sup>th</sup>**

Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent  
Orientation, Auditorium, 7pm  
(Snow date – February 21<sup>st</sup>)

### **February 21<sup>st</sup>**

Band Concert, Herndon High  
School Auditorium, 7pm

### **February 27<sup>th</sup>**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Roll Assembly,  
Auditorium, 1pm

### **February 28<sup>th</sup>**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Roll Assembly,  
Auditorium, 1pm

### **February 29<sup>th</sup>**

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Interims go home

### **March 3<sup>d</sup>**

English SOL – multiple choice

### **March 5<sup>th</sup>**

English SOL – direct writing  
Drama Production, Auditorium,  
7pm

### **March 6<sup>th</sup>**

Students released at 12:20 pm  
Touching Bases, 1-3pm  
Drama Production, Auditorium,  
7pm

### **March 14<sup>th</sup>**

Pi Day

### **March 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>**

Spring Break  
No school

### **March 28<sup>th</sup>**

Herndon MS vs. Langston  
Hughes basketball game, South  
Lakes High School gym, 6pm

# Herndon Middle School and PTA Newsletter

## Principal's Corner

### Dear Parents/Guardians:

We begin the second semester with great enthusiasm as we look forward to Spring. The second half of the year is always exciting, and sometimes students find it difficult to concentrate on their academics. We encourage you to assist us in reminding students to stay focused during the balance of the school year.

Now that winter is with us, we appreciate your understanding if the regular school day is interrupted by the weather. The safety of our students is always the overriding concern whenever travel is dangerous. Decisions regarding delayed opening and early closing are reported on local television, radio, Channel 21, and our "Keep in Touch" email system.

What amazes me about this time of year is that we are already heavily involved in planning for the next school year. The high school guidance counselors are scheduled to come over and present the course description catalog to our current eighth grade students on February 5, 2008. Our orientation for rising eighth grade students is scheduled for February 20, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in our auditorium.

The traffic pattern on Locust Street continues to be a problem with parents dropping students off on side streets and in the middle of Locust Street. Kiss and Ride drop off is located in the rear of the school to allow students to enter the building safely with adult supervision. Starting in the next week the Herndon Police Department will monitor the front of the school and parents in violation will receive a ticket. The police officers have been giving parents warning about dropping off students in front of the school and on side streets. If you continue this practice you will be making a contribution to the Town of Herndon.

As a school, we continue to try to emphasize the importance of reading. Even in this rapidly changing technology era, I have not seen an adequate replacement in predicting student success than students who read both for information and pleasure. I believe it is incumbent upon all adults who play any role in an adolescent's life to model the need to read.

My expectations for academic achievement remain at an all-time high. Please continue to reinforce the importance of good study skills and work habits with your students. Only working collaboratively can we make a difference.

Sincerely,  
*Frank G. Jenkins, Ed.D.*

## 2007-2008 PTA Officers

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

## Grade-level PTA Liaisons

### 7<sup>th</sup> grade:

Kathy Blystone  
[bblystone@cox.net](mailto:bblystone@cox.net)  
 Karen Temple  
[qtempl@msn.com](mailto:qtempl@msn.com)

### 8<sup>th</sup> grade:

Ann Marie Ruskin  
[AMR9000@aol.com](mailto:AMR9000@aol.com)  
 Lesley Aschenbach  
[Lesleyasch@prodigy.net](mailto: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.

## Your PTA Needs You!

I know it is almost Spring but the HMS PTA still needs you!

We are still looking to fill a few positions. If you would be interested in organizing a Spirit Night at a local restaurant as a fundraiser for HMS (families dine and a portion of the proceeds go back to HMS) or attending monthly meetings for the Greater Herndon Community Coalition please contact Amy Peterson, PTA Volunteer Coordinator, at [jr\\_ab\\_peterson@hotmail.com](mailto:jr_ab_peterson@hotmail.com) or 703-430-3968.

## From Your PTA President

Dear HMS Families,

It is funny to me how often someone says they're sorry to hear that I am the HMS PTA President because of all of the work that it must involve! In the beginning, I agreed with them because I couldn't believe that I had offered to run for the position on top of everything else I have going on in my life! But, shortly after taking office, I told people not to feel sorry for me because it has been a fabulous experience, and one that I am grateful to have.

I have gotten to know many wonderful parents who have the same concerns and hopes for their children as I do. I have met many members of the faculty and staff that truly care about the students and work hard to ensure that they are receiving an education that will help them be competitive in their academic and professional lives. There would have been no other way for me to have met so many of these people if I had not been involved in the PTA. The school really values the PTA and that makes me proud to be a part of it.

We have many members to date who have not only joined the PTA, but have attended its meetings and volunteered for many events, and as always, I thank you for your commitment to your children and to the school. But, we have not yet met our goal for membership. We are short by 60 members. If you have not yet joined the HMS PTA, please take a minute to do so. A minute is really all it takes! The form is included in this newsletter. Half of your dues stay with the school to subsidize programs that benefit your child, such as field trips, supplies, awards, books and other resources. We are reliant on Go for the Gold (GFTG) program donations and membership dues to reach our budget goal. (There are no other PTA fundraising activities at HMS.) Please consider becoming a member of the HMS PTA or making a contribution to the GFTG program today so that the PTA can continue to subsidize school programs at the level that it has become accustomed.

Our next PTA meeting will be on February 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the library. We will have a presentation by Michael T. Jones, FCPS ATOD Seminar Instructor, who will speak about "Safe and Drug-Free Youth." We welcome all of you and hope to see you there.

At the last PTA meeting, we discussed next year's PTA board and the state of committee chairs. We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers who would like to participate in the PTA, and have fun while doing so. If you are interested, please contact one of our current officers. Many volunteers are moving on, so we need new faces to step up to the plate! We will also be forming a Nominating Committee in February/March to determine a slate of officers for next year's PTA. If you are interested in being on this important committee, please contact me. We have a wonderful school, staff, and PTA, and it is very rewarding to be a part of this Herndon Middle School team! Please consider being involved with YOUR PTA!

Attention rising 9<sup>th</sup> grade parents: You may want to sign up for emails from Herndon High School PTSA now, so you are informed about what is going on for rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders. Please send an email to [herndonptsa@aol.com](mailto:herndonptsa@aol.com) and ask to be added to the email list. Also, the HHS website is: [www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/](http://www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/) for more information.

Don't forget Spring Touching Bases on March 6<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm. And, finally, we only have 43 directories left, for only \$5 each, available in the front office. Have a great February and March! Please feel free to contact me about any questions or concerns you may have.

**Nancy DerSimonian**

HMS PTA President

[ndersimonian@cox.com](mailto:ndersimonian@cox.com), 703-437-8254

**Registration and Orientation for 2008-2009 School Year**

Now is the time to start thinking about classes for next year. The Student and Parent Orientations and Course Registration for 2008-2009 take place in January and February. Guidance counselors will meet with students, during the school day, and provide an orientation for the upcoming school year and the available classes. During these meetings, students will be given the course selection booklet and a course selection sheet. Please check with your child to make sure that the material comes home. It is important that parents are part of the process and that a parent signature be on the course selection sheet when it is sent back to school. The important dates for each class are listed below.

**Rising 9<sup>th</sup> grade.** Student orientation will be Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> during science classes. The Parent Orientation was Wed., Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm at Herndon High School during Curriculum Night. Course selection sheets are due to HMS by Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Rising 8<sup>th</sup> grade.** Student orientation already took place. The Parent Orientation will be Wed., Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Auditorium (snow date Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>). Course selection sheets are due to HMS by Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Rising 7<sup>th</sup> grade.** The Parent Orientation was Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>. The course selection forms are due to HMS by Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Standards of Learning Tests**

The Standards of Learning (SOL) window for the English Writing Tests for 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> through Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. The multiple choice test is March 3<sup>rd</sup> and the direct writing is March 5<sup>th</sup>. Please try to avoid making any out-of-school appointments during this testing

window. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking a practice Writing SOL during this same time period.

The schedule for the rest of the SOLs has not been finalized at this time. Some changes include: all Math, all English reading, and 7<sup>th</sup> grade History SOLs will be taken on-line. Science and Civics SOLs will be paper tests. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders will take a practice Science SOL during the same time period. The schedule will be published in the next newsletter. **The Spring testing window is May 19<sup>th</sup> to June 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**School Year Calendar**

The HMS calendar for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester has been completed and is listed on page 10.



The FCPS 2008-2009 school year calendar has been posted and is available online at <http://www.fcps.edu/cal.htm>.

**Important Dates:**

- Sept 2, 2008 School begins
- Oct 13 Columbus Day
- Nov 3-4 Student holidays
- Nov 27-28 Thanksgiving break
- Dec 24-Jan 2 Winter vacation
- Jan 19 MLK Bday holiday
- Jan 20 Inauguration holiday
- Jan 26-27 Student holidays
- Feb 16 Pres. Day holiday
- April 3 Student holiday
- April 6-10 Spring Break
- May 25 Memorial Day holiday
- June 18 Last day of school

**SCA News**

The SCA has been busy with lots of activities. Many HMS students participated in December's Spirit Day – Hat Day and January's Spirit Day - Jersey Day.

8<sup>th</sup> Graders will also be repainting the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Wall after school on February 7<sup>th</sup> to leave their mark on HMS before they leave for high school!

The Talent show is coming up! The date is set for Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. That is also the SCA's "Wear your Sunglasses to School" Day!

The annual Student/Faculty Basketball game between HMS and Langston Hughes will be Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. The game will be played at South Lakes High School starting at 6pm. More information will be sent out at a later date.

The SCA encourages your continued participation in school spirit activities!

**Reflections**

Congratulations to the following students, who participated in the PTA Reflections Contest. These students entered four categories: Literature, Musical Composition, Photography and Visual Arts. It is clear that we have some very talented students in our midst. Please congratulate these students on their accomplishments:

**Literature**

1<sup>st</sup> Place Kimberly Jimenez

**Music**

1<sup>st</sup> Place Philip Meyers  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Ella Rutanen

**Photography**

Participant Tiffany Ngo  
Participant Irene Regalario

**Visual Arts**

1<sup>st</sup> Place Anidith Guevara  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Maggie Middleton

Special congratulations to Anidith Guevara, who achieved an "Award of Merit" in Visual Arts, for her submission at the 2007 Fairfax County Council level of competition. Anidith was invited to an Awards Ceremony in February, when all the Fairfax County Level Reflections winners will be honored.

Thanks to the HMS PTA parents, HMS faculty, and volunteer judges who volunteered their time for Reflections this year.

**Contributions to the Town of Herndon? Don't risk a citation!**



If you drive your students to school, do **NOT** drop them off in the front of the school or on side streets. It is

dangerous for both the students and fellow drivers. Please use 5<sup>th</sup> Street and the Kiss & Ride drop-off area in the rear of the school. The Herndon Police Department has begun ticketing drivers who are caught dropping off students in the front, both on Locust Street and side streets. Yes, it may take a few more minutes, but it's for the safety of our children! There have been a couple of students hit in past school years.

**Speaker at February PTA Meeting**

At the February PTA meeting on Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, Mike Jones, FCPS ATOD Seminar Instructor, will speak on "Safe and Drug-Free Youth." He will address current adolescent trends, affects on classroom learning/behaviors, substance abuse preventive approaches, and co-occurring disorders (ADHD, depression, ODD, etc). Research demonstrates that the more parents know, the less likely their children are to involve themselves in substance use/abuse. Please join us for this informative presentation.

**Herndon MS Selects Writers**

Each fall Herndon Middle School selects the top writers in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade to compete in the National Council of Teachers of English Promising Young Writers Competition. These students submit their best work to the in-school judges, and subsequently sit for a 75-minute impromptu writing session to compete for the six slots allotted to Herndon Middle School for the Council's national contest.

This year the top writers numbered eighteen! They all contributed their best and we are proud of their efforts. By team, the participants are:

**Eagles:** Ashley Gilliam, Anastasia Pechler, Peter Roberts

**Falcons:** Jorge Bonilla, Irene Hassan, Dominic LeShock, Nicole Russell, Grace Starnieri

**Kestrels:** Kathleen Garcia, Olivia Jewell, Ailish Johnson, Hannah Kaplan, Julia Lloyd, Ayla Peacock,

**Pelicans:** Jason Branch, Max Luong, Oliver Moore, Azra Mohammad Ullah

All of these students are, indeed, promising young writers, making the judging quite a challenge for the judges. The task was difficult, but the finalists have been chosen. They are: **Jorge Bonilla, Olivia Jewell, Hannah Kaplan, Max Luong, Peter Robert, and Nicole Russell.** In June, each of these students will receive a Certificate of Participation or the coveted Certificate of Recognition from NCTE. We congratulate all our contestants and wish them luck in the competition and in their futures as writers.

**HMS Magazine Drive Results!**



All the sales and celebrations of the magazine drive are over. This year we had net magazine sales of \$37,000, which is lower than last year but not bad considering the economy is in a decline. However, we will net the same profit for HMS as we did last year, roughly \$19,000, due to Dr. Jenkins' strong negotiating skills. Yeah, Dr. Jenkins!!!

Thanks to all HMS families, staff and friends who participated. And thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the magazine drive, especially Gabriele O'Bryan and Kathy Blystone who helped Dean Ciccirelli with this event.

This fundraising money supports all academic programs at HMS, most significantly student field trips. Keep the Magazine Drive in mind when renewing or considering new subscriptions over the next year. The magazine drive will be back next September.

**Library Book Fair**

The HMS Book Fair was very successful. The book fair earned about \$6,000 in book sales and we were able to give away about \$500 worth of books to students who were chosen by their teachers. Putting books in students' hands is our number one goal.



We would like to thank all the volunteers who gave so generously of their time to help during our book fair, especially Elaine Vollaro the Book Fair Chair. We had a very successful sale with your help.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance**



**Save the Date:** On Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Herndon Middle School (HMS) 8<sup>th</sup> Graders will celebrate their promotion to Herndon High and memories of Herndon Middle with a dance sponsored by HMS, the HMS SCA, and the HMS PTA. The event, which will NOT be formal, will be held in the school cafeteria, and is **exclusively** for HMS 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

The first planning meeting will be held in late February. Look for more information including requests for donations and activity volunteers. If you'd like to be on the committee or need more information, please contact Lesley.

*Lesley Aschenbach,*  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance Chair  
[Lesleyasch@prodigy.net](mailto:Lesleyasch@prodigy.net)  
703-787-9159

**HMS After-School Programs**

The HMS after-school student activities continue to be very well attended! Every week students involved in the basketball league, soccer league, step team, hip-hop dance club, weight room club, volleyball club, and students who attend the Herndon Community Center on Tuesdays and Fridays have interactive discussions about different character traits. We've talked about being respectful, responsible, punctual, and self-controlled. We'll continue to talk about different character traits throughout the rest of the year.

We require students who participate in our after-school programs to spend one day per week working on academics after school with one of their core teachers or in an academic/community service club. They must get their teacher's signature in their academic planner on the date they stayed after.

Students need to continue to listen to the announcements to find out what days the clubs meet. The HMS website is being updated to list the days and times each after-school club will meet.

In the event of a 2-hour early school closing or school cancellation, all after-school activities will be cancelled. All bus students will be sent home on their regular buses. Parents can sign up for Fairfax County Public Schools' Keep In Touch e-mail system which allows parents to receive e-mail notification of early closings and emergency cancellations.

We encourage parents to monitor the school website and radio/television during times of inclement weather for emergency notices. We would also like to express the need for parents to develop a plan with their children to cover emergency situations. These discussions should include access to spare keys, neighbors and/or

classmates they can stay with, how to contact their parents, and contacting their parents when they arrive home.

If you have any questions or concerns about the after-school program, please contact Michael Thomas, the HMS after-school program specialist at 703-904-4834 or [Charles.thomas@fcps.edu](mailto:Charles.thomas@fcps.edu).

**HMS Band News**

The District XII All-District Band is a superior band comprised of the best middle school instrumentalists in our district. We are proud of the 36 students who represented us in this competition on Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to Adrian Ahn (clarinet), Walter Little (contra-bass clarinet), Benson Truong (clarinet), and Caitlin Williams (trumpet) for earning a seat in this spectacular ensemble. One student was chosen as first alternate: Olivia Brady (tenor sax).

Suresh Rajan, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Symphonic Band percussionist, won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the annual DRUMFEST sponsored by the VA/DC Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society. Twenty-five drum set players competed for rankings and prizes on Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. Contestants played with a DVD performance of a band and then played a 2-minute drum solo. All performers were graded for performance, technique, continuity, and creativity. Suresh displayed outstanding performance presence and his solo was received with high acclaim from the audience. Congratulations to Suresh for this fine accomplishment and for auditioning for the District 12 All-District Band on the same day!

Thank you to everyone who attended the Barnes and Noble Band Fundraiser. The Band Department received over \$700 from this event.

**Band Benefactor**

Our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Arthur Nachman, who presented the HMS Band program with a \$7,500 donation at our Winter Concert. Mr. Nachman has been a Herndon resident since he was a child and believes that band is a very worthwhile and important endeavor. You may have seen recent articles in our local papers regarding his generosity. Thank you, Mr. Nachman! We hope to replace a few of our 1960's musical instruments with this donation.



**HMS Orchestra News**

Herndon High School and Herndon Middle School are the Host and Chair of this year's District XII Orchestra Festival which will take place on March 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>. Orchestra parents who would like to volunteer please contact Ms. Gawinski at [bette.gawinski@fcps.edu](mailto:bette.gawinski@fcps.edu).

**HMS Chorus News**

Congratulations to our HMS Choristers selected for District XII Chorus, held Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at Herndon HS:

**7th grade:** Nabil Ali, Colin Curtis, Amy Freeman, Nina Kappel, Ryan Little, Paul Morgan, Carlos Moriera, Usama Nadir, Brandon Timbrook, and "Jack" Wei Mo.

**8th Graders:** Emily Clark, Timothy Eisnaugle, Robin Falci, Olivia Jewell, Timothy Nixon, Nicole Ollerhead, and Emma Withers.

**Alternates:** Justine Chester, Carson Etienne, Claire Hirschhorn,

Brett Johnson, Katie Lang, and Mandar Kulkarni.

The Choir sang Jan 30<sup>th</sup> at the Rising 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation. Please encourage families of 6<sup>th</sup> graders to join chorus! Likewise, rising 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation happens on February 20<sup>th</sup> - we look forward to seeing you there.

This year's Pyramid Concert and annual District Festival (all choirs) will be at Oakton HS on Friday, February 29<sup>th</sup>. Please join us!

**Kestrels Scholars**

95% of the students on the Kestrels Team "graduated" from "student" to "scholar" in Ms. Hughes' Jan 11 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Ceremony of Scholars, marking their successful completion of a 5-week annotated bibliography project. The scholars each received a certificate of scholarship and a cinch-pack imprinted "Hoosey Scholar '08."

**High School Boundary Study**

The Herndon High School PTSA Boundary Study Committee would like to thank members of the Herndon pyramid families for their support at the Community Town Hall meetings held in November and December. Herndon High School

and its feeder schools were well represented at the meetings.

The staff submitted their final recommendation to the School Board on January 10<sup>th</sup> (see FCPS web site for their report <http://www.fcps.edu/fts/planning/wescoboundary/index.htm>).

**Herndon High School is not currently affected by any boundary change but this could still be changed by the School Board.** Hearings before the Board were held on January 30 and January 31 and will be on February 19 (if needed), and the final Board vote on the proposal will be held on February 28, 2008.

We encourage all Herndon families to keep informed of the School Board actions by checking the Herndon High School PTSA Boundary Study web page at [http://www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/ptsa/ptsa\\_act/0708BoundaryChanges/BoundaryChangeCommittee](http://www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/ptsa/ptsa_act/0708BoundaryChanges/BoundaryChangeCommittee)

**Administrators speak about HML Program at conference**

Dr. Frank Jenkins, Dean Cicciarelli, and Lenore Waggoner presented a workshop on "Effective Reading Strategies for Diverse Student Populations" at the Virginia Association for Supervision and

Curriculum Development Conference. The presenters led an interactive discussion on effective classroom reading strategies as they apply to Special Education and ESOL students. A proposal had been submitted to ASCD based on the success of HMS's unique Herndon Middle Literacy (HML) reading program and the participants were asked to present at the conference.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> period teacher to go home with your child.

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

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> Period Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Art Students to Exhibit at GRACE**

Art students in Mrs. Simanski's class will participate in the upcoming exhibition *Emerging Visions: Adolescent Self-Portraiture* at Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE). Students from HMS as well as Herndon High School, Langston Hughes Middle School and South Lakes High School are included in this celebration of Youth Art Month.

The exhibition runs from February 29<sup>th</sup> to March 28<sup>th</sup> with an opening reception on Friday, Feb 29<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8pm and a special iArt Teen Night on Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30pm with art activities and music. Please stop by for one of the events or to view art work by some of our students.

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](http://www.restonarts.org).

**Battle of the Books**

Students are encouraged to read all of the books in one category for the Battle of the Books. A questionnaire will be given in February. Based on the results, teachers from each academic team will then select teams in one or more of the categories listed on the book list. Practices will begin in March to prepare for a competition in April amongst all the academic teams. The books on the Battle of the Books list are listed below.



**Battle of the Books List  
Picture/Easy**

- Casey at the Bat*, Thayer
- Lon Po Po*, Young
- Make Way for Ducklings*, McCloskey
- Stinky Cheese Man and Other Stories*, Scieszka
- Why Mosquitoes Buzz in Peoples Ears*, Aardema

**Chapter Books**

- James and the Giant Peach*, Dahl
- Hatchet*, Paulsen
- The Cay*, Taylor
- Breadwinner*, Ellis
- No More Dead Dogs*, Korman

**Middle**

- Nevermind*, Avi
- Code Talker*, Bruchac
- The Lightning Thief*, Riordan
- Outsiders*, Hinton
- Stanford Wong Flunks Big Time*, Yee

**Advanced**

- And Then There Were None*, Christie
- Call of the Wild*, London
- Hound of the Baskervilles*, Doyle
- The Hobbit*, Tolkien
- Cuba 15*, Osa

**Non-Fiction**

- We Beat the Streets*, The Three Doctors
- Farewell to Manzanar*, Houston
- Left for Dead*, Nelson
- Through My Eyes*, Ruby Bridges
- Shark Life*, Benchley

**Books Needed**

Thanks to all HMS families and friends who have donated books for the Literacy Program but we can always use more. Keep us in mind when you're cleaning your shelves. All age-appropriate fiction and non-fiction books are appreciated.

**Donation of books from the Battle of the Books list would be greatly appreciated.** Any questions - contact Mrs. Lenore Waggoner at [Lenore.Waggoner@fcps.edu](mailto:Lenore.Waggoner@fcps.edu).

**Library Resources**

Is your child working on a school report and searching for information on the Internet? A Google search will provide information but little of it is from verified sources. There are better research resources available through the HMS library and all Fairfax County Public Schools. There are numerous databases with verified information available through the library. Verified means the database information is edited,

or checked, and is appropriate for student use.

These databases can be accessed from home as well. This information is included in the Daily Assignment Books on pages 15 and 16 which are provided to all HMS students but we thought it might be useful to parents as well. There is a wealth of information available through the on-line databases. You may also access the HMS library catalog.

To access the databases go to the HMS website at <http://www.fcps.edu/HerndonMS/>, then click on Library in the black bar then select "On-line Databases". A quick summary of the database and log-in info follows. **Please check your child's assignment book for log in information or call the library at 703-904-4822.**

**ABC-CLIO:** American government, American history, world geography, and world history.

<http://www.socialstudies.abc-clio.com>

User name:

Password:

**EBSCO HOST:** General interest and current events magazines.

<http://search.epnet.com>

User ID:

Password:

**Grolier Online:** Including *Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*, *Encyclopedia Americana*, and *La Nueva Enciclopedia Cumbre*.

<http://go.grolier.com>

User Name:

Password:

**SIRS Knowledge Source/ SIRS**

**Discoverer:** Newspapers, magazines, reference, and pictures.

<http://sks.sirs.com> or

<http://discoverer.sirs.com>

Customer No:

Password:

**eLibrary:** Newspapers, magazines, maps, pictures, etc.

<http://elibrary.bigchalk.com>

User Name:

Password:

**Gale Student Resource Center:**

Newspapers, magazines, and reference including Biography Resource Center and Literature Resource Center.  
<http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/hern79191>

Library ID: hern\_log

**World Book**

[www.worldbookonline.com](http://www.worldbookonline.com)

User Name: fairfax

Password: Fairfax

**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](mailto:erla.reyes@fcps.edu).

**Thursday, February 21 at 7 pm**

Topic - Peer Pressure and Risky Behaviors – Drug & Alcohol show & tell, Free Clinic  
 Presenters/Guests – Michael Torres, Guest speaker from CPS

**Thursday, March 13 at 7 pm**

Topic - Improving study skills, Internet Safety, Technology resources, AP/Honors Program & Hornet Challenge, PTA – Prom and All Night Grad  
 Presenters/Guests – Rebecca Small, teacher HHS; PTSA Representatives

**Thursday, April 17 at 7 pm**

Topic - Career Center resources, Academy information, Internships  
 Presenters/Guests – South Lakes Transitional ESOL High School; Matt Niziol 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, 21 de febrero**

La Presión de las Amistades y Comportamientos Riesgosos – Presentación Sobre Uso de Drogas y Alcohol, Clínica Gratuita

**Jueves, 13 de marzo**

Mejorando las Destrezas de Estudio, Seguridad en el Internet, Recursos Tecnológicos  
 PTA – Baile Formal de Fin de Año (Prom) y Fiesta de Toda la Noche (All Night Grad)

**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

**College Partnership Program**

The College Partnership Program students will be going on their yearly college tour to Northern Virginia Community College's Medical Campus in Springfield, VA on Monday, March 10, 2008. The students are looking forward to exploring the various medical careers found on this campus.

A great time was had by all of the students and the participants at our annual CPP "Spirit Day" on Thursday, December 6, 2007. Lynda Boyke the Herndon High

School Career Specialist and Joyce Pendleton a semi-retired Herndon High School Counselor were the guest speakers. They spoke to the CPP students about becoming involved in academic life at high school and how important it was for them to get to know their high school counselor and the career specialist. Mrs. Boyke told them about the vast amount of scholarships available to students who were pursuing higher education and how she could assist them in accessing this information. Mrs. Pendleton spoke about her role as a high school counselor and how she could help students reach their career and academic goals.

The remainder of the schedule is:

**February 25** – College Trip Preparation

**March 10** - College Trip (NOVA Medical Campus, Springfield, VA)

**April 28** - Self Esteem/Self Assessment Activities

**May 28** - Writing Skills Activity/ Student Evaluation

**June 9** - End of Year Activity

**2008 Summer School Changes**

Dates for summer school, as well as times and course offerings, will change for summer 2008 because of reductions in the school system budget. A redesign in the summer school program will affect elementary, middle, and high school programs. The details of the redesigned program are still being developed and will be shared as soon as they are completed. The proposed summer school plan will be posted on the FCPS web site when it is presented to the School Board at a date to be determined.

Budget documents, including work session and public hearing dates, are currently available at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2009.htm>. We encourage you to stay updated by visiting this web site or signing up for the Keep in Touch message system.

Notes from the HMS Clinic

Virginia Wilkinson, MSN, RN, NCSN  
School Public Health Nurse  
Mercy Caloyannides,  
Clinic Room Aide



I want to encourage you to be prepared for cold weather as we all know it's here. Encourage your student to wear warm coats, hats and gloves on the coldest days. We lose the majority of heat from our bodies through our heads, so a scarf or hat is a must while waiting for the bus. Mittens are actually better than gloves, but some kind of hand covering is also recommended.

FROSTBITE is a severe reaction to skin exposure to the cold. Symptoms are grey-white color of affected area and a loss of feeling. It can happen quickly on a bitter cold day. If your student is waiting at the bus stop for any length of time, he/she is at risk for frostbite.

We are currently in the midst of flu season. It will last another 4 to 6 weeks. We ask that you do the following:

- + Remember that a well student is a student ready to learn.
- + Please keep your student home if he/she is sick. It's difficult to take an exam or to learn information when you are concentrating on being sick. Also, a student who is sick shares germs with everyone around him/her. You don't want your student picking up someone else's germs.
- + Students should be fever free (without meds) and not have been vomiting or had diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school
- + If your student will need medications at school you must complete the FCPS Medical Authorization form. You can download from

[www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) or all Mercy Caloyannides in the clinic at 703-904-4810.

You can help us in the clinic by reporting vomiting and/or diarrhea, or fever with a cough and sore throat, and the date the symptoms began when you call your student out sick. By providing this information, you can save yourself a phone call if we have an excessive number of absences. If you have any questions, you can reach Virginia at 703-481-4072. Mercy is available at 703-904-4810.

**Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic**

The Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic (formerly the Herndon Free Clinic) is a Herndon-based organization that serves the people of Herndon, Reston, Chantilly, and Centreville, both children and adults. They offer free school and sports physicals to children who do not have health insurance or cannot afford to pay for such services. The clinic also provides medical care for eligible adults with hypertension and/or diabetes. They recently moved to a dedicated facility at 500 Grove St in Herndon. Visits are **by appointment only**.

The clinic will be having a Free Sports Physicals Day on May 31 from 9am-2pm BY APPOINTMENT only. Those interested should call 703.481.8160 to determine if they are eligible. Ages 4 through high school are welcome. For more information please call the clinic at 703-481-8160 or visit their website at [www.jsfreeclinic.org](http://www.jsfreeclinic.org).

**CHADD Program to Address AD/HD Medication**

CHADD (Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder) of Northern Virginia will hold a program on Thursday, February 21, on "Medication for AD/HD: Ask a Physician Your Questions."

The speaker will be Bruce W. Pfeffer, MD, a developmental pediatrician in private group practice in Fairfax County. Pfeffer specializes in AD/HD and hyperactivity issues. He is on the staff at Inova Fairfax and Fair Oaks Hospitals, and is an Associate Clinical Professor at Georgetown University and the University of Virginia. He has been recognized in *Washingtonian Magazine* as one of the area's outstanding pediatricians.

Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD) is characterized by developmentally inappropriate impulsivity, attention, and in some cases, hyperactivity. AD/HD is a neurobiological disorder that affects three to five percent of school-age children.

According to CHADD, most experts recommend a multimodal treatment approach for AD/HD, consisting of a mix of medical, educational, behavioral, and psychological interventions. Interventions may include educational modifications and accommodations, behavior modification, parent training, counseling, and medication.

The February 21<sup>st</sup> program will provide an update on the use of medication for AD/HD and will provide time to answer attendee questions. The program is free and open to all. The program will begin at 7 pm in the library of James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna, Virginia. Complementary refreshments will be provided by Educational Connections, Inc.

CHADD is a nonprofit organization that provides information and support to parents of children with attention deficit disorders, as well as adults with attention deficit disorders. For more information, go to [www.novachadd.org](http://www.novachadd.org), e-mail [info@NoVaCHADD.org](mailto:info@NoVaCHADD.org), or call 703-641-5451.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Herndon Middle School</b>  <b>2007 - 2008 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Event Calendar</b>                      All dates/times are subject to change – please check future calendars for updated information</p>		
February 1, 2008	Rising 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Orientation – Snow Date	7pm
February 4, 2008	Report Cards mailed home	
February 6, 2008	PTA Meeting – Library	7pm
February 18, 2008	President’s Day holiday – no school	
February 20, 2008	Rising 8th Grade Orientation	7pm
February 21, 2008	Rising 8th Grade Orientation – Snow Date	
February 21, 2008	Band Concert, HHS	7pm
February 27, 2008	Orchestra Concert, HHS	7pm
February 27, 2008	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Roll	1-2pm
February 28, 2008	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Roll	1-2pm
February 29, 2008	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Interims go home	
March 3-6, 2008	Writing SOLs	
March 5, 2008	PTA Meeting – Library	7pm
March 5-6, 2008	Drama Productions	7pm
March 6, 2008	2 Hour Early Dismissal	12:20pm
March 6, 2008	Touching Bases	1-3pm
March 11-April 1, 2008	Music Dept Fundraiser	
March 14, 2008	Pi day	
March 28, 2008	HMS vs Langston Hughes MS basketball game	6pm
April 2, 2008	PTA Meeting – Library	7pm
April 4, 2008	Talent Show	
April 4, 2008	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Ends	
April 7, 2008	Teacher Work Day (student holiday)	
April 11, 2008	Report Cards go home	
April 23, 2008	Spelling Bee	7pm
April 28, 2008	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Roll	8-9am
April 29, 2008	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Roll	8-9am
May 2, 2008	Music Department Trip	
May 7, 2008	PTA Meeting – Library - Elections	7pm
May 8, 2008	NJHS Induction	2:30pm
May 9, 2008	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter Interims go home	
May 13, 2008	Band Concert	
May 15, 2008	Chorus Concert	7pm
May 16, 2008	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade field trips	
May 19–June 12, 2008	SOL window	
May 26, 2008	Memorial Day Holiday – no school	
June 4, 2008	PTA Meeting – Library	7pm
June 5, 2008	Orchestra Concert	7pm
June 10, 2008	Band Awards Ceremony	7pm
June 12, 2008	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Team Day	
June 13, 2008	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Recognition Dance	7-10pm
June 13, 2008	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Team Day	
June 16, 2008	Awards Assembly	7pm
June 16, 2008	Herndon High School Graduation	
June 17, 2008	Last day of school	

**The HMS PTA Needs Your Membership Support**

During your child's years at Herndon Middle School it is even **more important to be involved with the PTA now and know what's happening with the school and your child.** When you join the HMS PTA, you'll be tapping into a network of Herndon parents. You'll have the opportunity to meet other parents, build a rapport, find out about issues that are important to you, and support the school and suggest changes with your input. Research has proven that children do better when their parents are involved at school. Grades and test scores are higher, children's self esteems grow, and schools improve.

But, PTA Membership is down this year! Without your support, it will be difficult to fund the programs that the PTA promises to sponsor. Membership and programs do not end yet!! We are just halfway through the year—there are still many on-going enrichment programs and activities to happen!! **Don't put this paper aside without taking action to join!** Support all HMS children by joining the HMS PTA. The membership fee is \$10.00 per person—a small price to pay to promote values, programs, and activities for our youth. Please

check to be sure you've joined—we're missing many of you and our kids are depending on you!!

*Lesley Aschenbach,*  
PTA Membership Chair,  
[Lesleyasch@prodigy.net](mailto:Lesleyasch@prodigy.net)  
703-787-9159

**Go for the Gold Update**

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to our **only PTA Fundraiser, Go for the Gold.** We have raised 100% of our goal of \$5,010, but we don't have to stop now! This program runs all year long, so it is never too late to contribute to this cash donation program.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Liaisons**

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

If you are not already on our 7<sup>th</sup> grade parent database, we would like to include your email address. Please send an email message to [bblystone@cox.net](mailto: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 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Liaisons

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Liaisons**

Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders are moving on to high school soon. To receive information regarding this transition to high school and other important information 8<sup>th</sup> grade information, be sure you are included in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent database. If you are not on the distribution list already, send your email address to [AMR9000@aol.com](mailto:AMR9000@aol.com).

You may want to sign up for emails from Herndon High School PTSA as well, so you are informed about what is going on at the high school. Please send an email to [herndonptsa@aol.com](mailto:herndonptsa@aol.com) and ask to be added to the email list.

*Ann Marie Ruskin and*  
*Lesley Aschenbach*  
HMS PTA 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Liaisons

**Join the HMS PTA today**

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** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Hospitality**

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who helped with the Holiday Luncheon. The food was delicious and plentiful and everyone went home with a door prize. The teachers and staff were so grateful for everything. Your generosity made the Holiday Luncheon a great success! We would also like to thank Dr. Jenkins for supplying the pizza. The luncheon was a wonderful way to say "Happy Holidays" to our teachers and staff.

The Hospitality Committee will be hosting the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Roll Assemblies in February and Touching Bases in March. More information on these events will be sent later. Thank you for your continued support with these events.

*Marilyn Currence*  
[MBCurrence@comcast.net](mailto:MBCurrence@comcast.net)  
*Jeanne Talbot*  
[jeannetalbot@verizon.net](mailto:jeannetalbot@verizon.net)  
*HMS Hospitality Committee Co-Chairs*

**2008 - 2009 HMS PTA Nominations**

There is no time like the present to get involved with your child's school. There is also no better way to get to know what is going on at Herndon MS than by being active in your PTA. A nominating committee is being formed to recommend a slate of officers for 2008-2009. Elections will take place at the May 7<sup>th</sup> PTA meeting.

We are looking for current and new parents to join us in the coming year. Don't want to do it by yourself? Consider doing it with a friend. We also need to fill many committee chair positions. Anyone interested in serving on the PTA, please contact Nancy DerSimonian at 703-437-8254 or [ndersimonian@cox.net](mailto:ndersimonian@cox.net).

Please note, if you are on the Nominating Committee you cannot run for an officer position. The nominating committee is perfect for current 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents, but 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents are welcome as well. Also, please let parents of rising 7<sup>th</sup> graders know about the opportunities to actively participate with the PTA.

**Officers:**

**President:** Presides at all meetings and coordinates the work of PTA officers and committees.

**Vice President:** Assists with all duties that the President is involved with.

**Secretary:** Records minutes of all meetings, maintains a current copy of the bylaws, and handles correspondence.

**Treasurer:** Keeps a full and accurate account of receipts and expenditures for the PTA, makes disbursements in accordance with the voted on budget, and presents financial statements at the meetings.

**Committees:**

**Basketball:** Coordinate with the HMS SCA for the annual HMS vs. Langston Hughes Basketball game in March/April.

**Career Fair:** Works with the Counselors and Civics departments for a one day event where students can discuss careers with area professionals

**Directory:** Compiles and prepares HMS PTA Student Directory.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Recognition:** Coordinates end of year celebration for 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Grade Level Liaisons:** Maintains parent email database and distributes information of relevance to each grade on a regular basis via email.

**Hospitality:** Coordinates luncheons for Back-to-School, Teacher Appreciation, Holiday, and Bus Driver Appreciation, as well as refreshments for Honor Roll assemblies and Touching Bases. (2 – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade)

**Landscape:** Maintains beds around the school grounds.

**Liaisons – Band, Chorus, Orchestra, Hispanic, Special Education, Superintendent's Council, and Fairfax County Council Representative:** Attend group's meetings as scheduled and report relevant information to and from group.

**Library/Book Fair:** Coordinates schedule of library volunteers and assists with annual Book Fair.

**Magazine Drive Coordinator:** Works in conjunction with school administrator to run Magazine Drive (in September). Coordinates distribution, collection, tallying of order and organize prizes & distribution.

**Membership:** Coordinates PTA membership drive, and maintains a database of all members.

**Newsletter:** Compiles, edits, and distributes HMS PTA bi-monthly newsletter.

**Reflections:** Coordinates this PTA sponsored program featuring student artwork.

**Spirit Night:** Books a restaurant for an evening of dinner and camaraderie

**Touching Bases Coordinators:** Coordinates twice-yearly program of mini teacher conferences held in November and March. (2 – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade)

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Recruits volunteers to assist at HMS and PTA-sponsored events and programs. Also, maintains a data base of all volunteers.

**Website:** Maintains the PTA website.



## Hawks of the Month

### November and December

Every month each academic team selects a student as a Hawk of the Month based on how well that student demonstrates the six pillars of character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Fairness and Citizenship.

### Thunderbirds

#### November Hawk: Josh Glazier

Josh is a bright and talented and diligent student who always comes to class prepared for the day with a smile on his face. He is responsible with his schoolwork but always willing to stop and help his fellow classmates if needed.

#### December Hawk: Erin Conner

Erin is a positive, meticulous and inquisitive student who always wants to do her best. She arrives to class prepared and ready to learn! The Thunderbirds are proud to nominate her for Hawk of the Month.

### Roadrunners

#### November Hawk: Noelle Muha

Noelle is a very earnest, hardworking student. She is always on task and eager to participate in class. She also gets on wonderfully with both her teachers and her peers! The Roadrunner Team is lucky to have her!

#### December Hawk: Ryan White

Ryan is a personable young man who is helpful to both teachers and his peers. He is an exceptional student who is always willing to participate in class. The Roadrunners are proud to nominate Ryan as Hawk of the Month!

### Raptors

#### November Hawk: Gillian Linden

Gillian is an impeccable student – respectful of those around her, eager to participate and excited to learn! It is obvious to anyone who knows Gillian that she takes pride in her work; she is diligent, bright and creative!

#### November Hawk: Jonathan Seng

Jonathan is a courteous student extremely willing to help out others! He takes his learning seriously and this is evident in his eagerness to learn new skills, his promptness for class, always getting his work done, and creating exemplar written work!!!

#### December Hawk: Emily Blum

Emily comes to class daily with a positive attitude and exhibits superb work ethics – she is only satisfied when she has done her best! She is responsible in all she does and interacts with her peers collaboratively and respectfully!!

#### December Hawk: Nathan Wycoff

Hats off to Nathan for being an outstanding role model! He has great work ethics, uses his time wisely, and is always willing to help fellow peers. His persistence and consistency with school work and respect for others has earned him the praise of the Raptor team!

### ESOL

#### November Hawk: Carlos Mencia (8<sup>th</sup>)

Carlos is a dedicated student who is respectful, punctual, organized and a team player! Although he is still learning English as his second language, he takes the time to help other students with their studies too! Great work, Carlos!!

#### December Hawk: Jose Andrade (7<sup>th</sup>)

Jose is a very conscientious, hard-working student. He always takes the time to help other students whenever they need extra assistance!! We are proud of Jose as Hawk of the Month!

### Falcons

#### November Hawk: Jason Villatoro

Jason is a friendly and dedicated volunteer in the Recycling Club. He learns quickly, is responsible and is an honest and dependable team player. Everyone is happy to work with Jason!

#### December Hawk: Ella Novoselsky

Ella is another excellent volunteer in the Recycling Club. She is smart, compassionate, fair, and trustworthy. Ella works well with all types of students and adults, and she demonstrates skill in leadership!

### Kestrels

#### November Hawk: Avery Wauben

Avery sustains academic excellence and produces thoughtful, exemplary work again and again. She is also generous with support for teammates and other students who may need it!

#### December Hawk: Kyle Rich

Kyle is the very definition of determination, willing to take on difficult tasks and persevere even when it takes one more try. Additionally, he is an example to all his classmates in his courteous, consistently appropriate personal conduct.

### Eagles

#### November Hawk: Timothy Nixon

Timothy epitomizes what it means to be an Eagle. He is a conscientious, diligent worker who constantly makes insightful contributions to class and is always soaring to new heights!

#### December Hawk: Lillie Hicks

Lillie is hard-working, focused and has overcome some difficult challenges while still remaining polite and positive! She advocates for herself and is determined to succeed. These qualities make her an endearing and inspiring student.

### Pelicans

#### November Hawk: Francis Matovu

Francis is always polite and pleasant in class and in the halls! In addition he is one of the hardest working students we have ever had, and his grades reflect that!

#### December Hawk: Nathan Smith

Nathan is an exceptionally high achiever in all our classes! He also displays a great deal of maturity when he interacts with peers and teachers. He is a great addition to the Pelican Team!



**Herndon Middle School  
901 Locust Street  
Herndon, VA 20170**

**Phone:  
703-904-4800**

[www.fcps.edu/HerndonMS](http://www.fcps.edu/HerndonMS)  
[www.herndonmiddleschoolpta.com](http://www.herndonmiddleschoolpta.com)

**Honor, Maturity, Success**

## Touching Bases

Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
School dismisses at 12:20 pm

Touching Bases is your opportunity to meet with your child's teachers for a three minute review of their progress. As in the fall, the core teachers will be together in a Team classroom; teachers of electives and specials are available in the cafeteria or other designated rooms. Please remember, if you find that there are issues to discuss beyond the three minutes, you are encouraged to schedule an appointment with the child's team through the team counselor.

To allow for the Touching Bases afternoon schedule, the students will be dismissed at 12:20 pm on that day.

To help the process move smoother we need parent volunteers to assist the administration. Please contact Beth Bednarek, Touching Bases Chair, for volunteer opportunities at [bsbednarek@aol.com](mailto:bsbednarek@aol.com) or 703-709-9461.

Herndon Middle School  
901 Locust Street  
Herndon, VA 20170  
703-904-4800

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