

HMS News

February/March 2009

Herndon Middle School

Administrator Article -- Mike Lester

I've worked at HMS since 1995 and I have to say that this school year has been a **wonderful year of new things**. We have a seventh grade class and several eighth grade students that are new to HMS. Several staff members are new to the school this year. Our new principal, Mrs. Klena, has taken the helm of our school. And just recently we have a new president. I always feel excitement when something new enters my life. Perhaps it's a bit of anxiety in the anticipation of the unknown. However, as a self-described optimist, I think my excitement is because I see the potential for good things to happen. Watching the inauguration of the president strengthened my feeling that our country would continue to be the greatest and that we would work together to make it through the difficult times in which we find ourselves. I also want to tell you that working with Mrs. Klena makes me feel especially optimistic about our school.

The beginning of a new semester is one of those things that holds great potential. Students have an opportunity to renew their efforts and strive for success in all their classes. School staff members have a new opportunity to strengthen their efforts and to provide the best learning environment possible. Parents have the opportunity to renew their commitment to their children's education. **I hope you'll join me** in my excitement for these new possibilities and that you'll take actions to make them a reality.

The HMS guidance department is responsible for a number of **things that will affect your children this spring**. Registering students for next year's classes is one of those. I hope you are able to attend the parent orientation on February 5th. This is an opportunity for parents to meet staff members and to hear about next year's programs. During the month of February, counselors will visit classes to speak with students and answer their questions regarding classes and the registration process.

Course selection sheets are sent home with students so that parents and students can decide which courses to register for. Late in the school year I will send a letter to each parent, stating the child's class registration. Guidance also administers a number of **required assessments in the Spring**. By the time you receive this letter we will have administered the National Assessment for Educational Progress test. This is an assessment that is associated with the NCLB act and it included a randomly selected group of approximately 100 students. In February the WIDA assessments will be administered for all children who have a native language other than English, this is

also part the NCLB act. On March 3rd & 4th eighth grade students will take the writing SOL and at the end of the year (May 18 – June 5) all students will be taking the remainder of the SOL tests.

Another important responsibility of the guidance department is the social and emotional health of your children. **Communication between home and school** is especially important when a child is having difficulty. If a counselor becomes aware of an issue affecting a child, they will call to notify parents and to discuss strategies to support the child. Likewise, if your family is experiencing difficulties that might affect your child, please call the school and let your child's counselor help. Counselors can be reached by calling 703-904-4900.

Any school newsletter wouldn't be complete without some important logistical reminders. If a student is going to be absent for any reason please call the **attendance** hotline to leave a message (703.904.4848). Assignments that are missed during excused absences can be "made up" once the child returns to school. If the absence reaches three days in a row and you anticipate a continued absence, the school can collect assignments from teachers so that your child can keep from falling too far behind. Your child's counselor can facilitate this, so please contact the guidance office for assistance.

Children that are hungry have difficulty focusing on their school work. Please keep on top of your child's **lunch account balance**. If you have any questions regarding food service, please contact the cafeteria manager, Mr. Joe Teta, at 703.904.4821.

Mornings can be stressful and arriving to school late makes students feel awkward. I suggest that with today's traffic and busy streets the best strategy is to arrive early. Buses unload students at 7:10am and once they unload students begin entering the school. If you must drive your child to school, please use the **"Kiss and Ride"** and please try to avoid the time when buses are exiting.

Best wishes for a pleasant spring and the new things that the season may bring,

Mike Lester
Director of Student Services

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 40 students who represented us in this competition on Saturday, January 10th. Congratulations to Adrian A. (clarinet), Lauren G. (French horn), Kathryn L. (flute), Adam R. (oboe), and Bryan Y. (tuba) for earning a position in this group. One student was chosen as first alternate: Jay K. (bass clarinet).

Band Benefactor

Our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Arthur Nachman, who presented the HMS Band program with a very large donation in December. We were able to purchase two brand new wonderful oboes!

Virginia Tech Honor Band

Four H.M.S. students were selected to participate in the Twelfth Annual Virginia Tech Honor Band. Out of more than 1,200 nominees, 500 were chosen to perform with five bands. The nominated students represent over 160 schools from five states. In addition to the bands and rehearsals, the event included a Friday night performance by the Virginia Tech Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band, as well as clinics by the Virginia Tech faculty specialists.

The event will take place on January 23-25. Representing HMS were: Adrian A. (clarinet), Lauren G. (French horn), Jonathan H. (trombone), and Reid S. (oboe).

Guidance Department Information.

Jan. 28 NAEP assessment (selected students, parents notified by mail) *Snow day—to be rescheduled*

Feb. 4-13 WIDA testing (required LEP assessments, parents notified by mail)

Feb. 5 Parent Orientation (rising 7th and 8th grades, at 7pm)

Feb. 12 Orientation (snow date)

Feb. 16 President's Holiday (no classes)

Feb. 25 Honor Roll 8th grade 1pm

Feb. 26 Honor Roll 7th grade 1pm

March 3 SOL Writing

March 4 SOL Writing

April 2 Last Day 3rd Quarter

The College Partnership Program (CPP)

Will meet on the following Wednesdays:

February - 18

March -18

April - 15

8th Grade Career Fair

Herndon Middle School will host a Career Fair for eighth grade students on Tuesday, March 24th. This is a joint effort of the PTA and the Counseling Department. The success of the program depends on having a diverse group of people representing a wide variety of careers to meet with students. If you would be willing to share information about your career at this event, or know someone who would, we'd love to hear from you. We are also seeking volunteers to work both before and during the event. If you are interested in participating, either as a career representative or a volunteer, please contact the Career Fair chairperson, Laura Cudahy, at lcudahy@aol.com or 703-406-0079. Thanks for your support."

Helping Your Child with Organization, Time Management and Study Skills

Free and open to the public. This interactive workshop includes:

- Setting up homework space and effectively organizing materials
- Teaching students how to prioritize, break down large tasks, and plan assignments
- Reducing procrastination to eliminate last minute stress
- Effective study skills for academic success
- Maintaining and promoting on task and peaceful behavior during homework time

Where: Herndon Middle School Library

When: Wednesday, February 11, 7-8:30 p.m.

Presented by: Ann Dolin, M.Ed.

For more information email Ann Dolin at Ann@ectutoring.com, visit www.anndolin.com, www.ectutoring.com or call 703-934-8282.

Geography Bee

Herndon Middle School held its annual Geography Bee in the library on Wednesday, January 14. Over 50 HMS students qualified for this school wide competition with many lasting through several rounds of competition. Congratulations to this year's Geography Bee champion; 8th grader, Kestrel team member, Paul M.

Second place went to Jay K. of the Roadrunner team and 3rd place went to Will E. of the Raptors Team.



Herndon Middle School Selects Writers

Each Fall, Herndon Middle School selects the top writers in the eighth 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 an impromptu writing session in order to compete for the six slots allotted to Herndon Middle School for the Council's national contest.

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

Eagles: Hannah C., Kaitlynn T., Yasmine M.

Falcons: John D., Allison D., Emily B., Valerie B.

Kestrels: Marie B., Brind D., Cameron C., Mayumi S.

Pelicans: Sarah S.

All of these students are, indeed, promising young writers, making the judging quite a challenge in-house. The task was difficult, but the finalists have been chosen. They are: Emily B., Marie B., Allison D., John D., Mayumi S., and Sarah S.. 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.

Winter Concert A Success

The HMS orchestras performed an impressive Winter Concert at Herndon HS on December 6th which got them off to a great musical start for the year. We are looking forward to performing again at the Pre-Festival Concert coming up on February 26th. This concert will also be staged at Herndon H.S. along with the area orchestra and the orchestras from Herndon H.S. This concert is in preparation for the Orchestra Festival to be held in March. Come out and support the talented string students of Herndon MS. All concerts begin at 7:00PM.

Yearbook Information

The cost for this year's yearbook is now \$40. Unfortunately we are no longer able to offer name stamps for the cover. It looks like we will most likely run out of yearbooks this year! Please make sure your child is not left out when books are delivered in the spring.

Thank you very much for your support! We look forward to delivering another fantastic HMS Yearbook in June!!

[To order a yearbook, click here.](#)

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

Orientation Dates Set

Herndon Middle School will hold an orientation for the parents of rising 7th and rising 8th grade students on **February 5th**. We'll begin the evening with a general session beginning at 7pm. The 8th grade orientation will be held in the cafeteria and the 7th grade in the auditorium. Following the general session parents will be given the opportunity to tour the building and to visit elective programs.

A meeting for the parents of rising 7th grade special ed. students will be held in the school library at 6:15pm. Please join Mr. Cicciarelli for an overview of the HMS special ed. program.

Let's Go Hawks And Hoops!

The HMS vs. Langston Hughes Basketball game will be held at South Lakes High School on March 13 at 7:00pm. This is an HMS event you won't want to miss. If you would like more info and/or to volunteer please contact

Courtney & Lindsey Linden
Basketball Game Chairs
llinden01@comcast.net

8th Grade Dance

The 8th Graders will celebrate their promotion to Herndon High and memories of Herndon Middle with a dance in June. The dance will NOT be formal, it will be held in the school cafeteria, and is exclusively for HMS 8th graders. Look for more information in the next month.

8th Grade Dance Chairs
Kathy Blystone bblystone@cox.net
Courtney Linden llinden01@comcast.net
Diane Bisbee dianebiz@cox.net

International Night **(Limited seating for this event)**

Who: EVERYONE IS INVITED!
Event: Fashion Show, Flamenco Dancers, Music & Food
Where: HMS Cafeteria
When: Friday, March 20th 2009
7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.



Library News

We had a successful library book fair again this year! We could not have done it without the help of many PTA parent volunteers: setting up, collecting money, straightening and packing up. We gave away numerous books to students through the English teachers. Thanks to the English teachers for taking time from their schedules to bring students to the fair.

The library supports research instruction and allows students to check out books and magazines. Please ask your student what they've checked out lately from the HMS library. Go to the HMS library's website and browse the online databases provided by the county. The passwords for the databases are in your child's agenda book and on Blackboard in the HML course.

We welcome parent volunteers' help in the library. Please contact Peggy Linski at 703-904-4822 or Margaret.linski@fcps.edu

SCA News

The SCA is selling Candy Grams to the students during their lunch periods on February 2nd-11th. Students will be able to send a note & a lollipop to their friends for \$1.00. Lollipops will be delivered on February 13th during TA.

The last week in February will be our Spirit Week. Each day students can dress according to the designated day.

Monday 23- Artist Day

Tuesday 24- Hero Day

Wednesday 25- Sport Day

Thursday 26- Music Day

Friday 27- PJ Day

News from Herndon Middle Literacy

HML class periods and staff are being reminded about the Battle of the Books List for 2008-2009. This is a reading list of books on different reading levels for all of our students so they can compete in the "Battle of the Books" competition. This challenge is very much like the television sponsored "It's Academic", but our questions are from the book list. This list is posted on Blackboard; it was sent to feeder elementary schools, placed in the reading folders for students and posted in the library and in classrooms. Books from the list would make wonderful presents for your children and this would help them be prepared to represent their teams.

HMS Family In Need

HMS Family in Need: The PTA is collecting donations for a HMS family in need, who has been facing several crisis' and they need our help. Donating to this family is as easy as following this link: <http://cfc.wjla.com/externalwebsite.cfm?website=http://bbsinc.biz/ninmag/>

Autism News

The Office of Special Education (OSE) will offer a parent workshop on February 9, 2009 for parents whose children are receiving applied behavior analysis (ABA) enhanced autism services. A Behavioral Approach to Dealing with Challenging Feeding Issues will be presented by Todd Streff, a consultant from Great Strides Behavioral Consulting, Inc. Two sessions will be offered, 8:30-10:00 a.m. and 7:00-8:30 p.m., both at Devonshire Center, Conference Room A. For the complete schedule of the ABA Parent Workshops, please visit the website at <http://www.fcps.edu/ss/ABA/>

Principal to Address Students

On February 2nd and February 9th, teams will have an opportunity to hear from the principal and students will be able to ask questions or share their ideas during the TA/HML period. Students will check into their TA and teachers will escort students to the auditorium. We will talk about some of the big issues facing the county such as the budget, SLEEP and summer programs as well as HMS issues such as our school goals and end of year activities. In addition, Mrs. Killian will let students know about our wonderful **Battle of the Books** event! Here is the schedule:

Team Meetings with Mrs. Klena

February 2nd during TA Time

Pelicans

Eagles

Raptors

Roadrunners

February 9th during TA Time

Kestrels

Falcons

Ospreys

Thunderbirds

Choir Fund Raiser

The Herndon Middle School Choir is raising money to improve the look and quality of their uniforms, and you can help us every time you shop at any BARNES AND NOBLE between now and Sunday, February 8. Simply by telling the cashier you would like to support the Herndon Middle School Choir and giving the code number 465625, a portion (at least 10 percent!) of your total will be donated to our choirs to help with our quest for new formal wear.

Also, on a few occasions during the weekend of February 6 through 8, choir students will be performing at the Reston Town Center store. Look for us there and we thank you very much for supporting the Herndon Middle School Choir!

	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
February	1	2 Groundhog Day Late Bus Day Rising 9 th registration	3 Late Bus Day HHS Counselor visit Reports Cards Mailed	4	5 District Band Late Bus Day 7 th & 8 th Parent Orientation 7:00 PM Auditorium	6 District Band	7
	8	9 Elementary School Visits Late Bus Day NJHS 2:30 Auditorium	10	11 Late Bus Day Parents Homework Help seminar 7:00 Library PTA meeting 7:00 PM	12 Late Bus Day Lincoln's Birthday Snow Date Homework seminar	13	14 Valentines Day
	15	16 No HMS Presidents Day Holiday	17	18 Late Bus Day CCP Café 2:30 PM Band Concert 7:00 PM	19 Late Bus Day Snow Date Band Concert	20 Black History Presentation	21
	22	23 Late Bus Day	24 Pelican Field Trip	25 Late Bus Day 8 th Grade Honor Roll 1:00 PM Auditorium Orchestra Concert 7:00 PM Auditorium	26 Late Bus Day 7 th Grade Honor Roll 1:00 PM Auditorium Snow Date Orchestra Concert	27 Interims Distributed 1 st period SCA Spirit Day	28
	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
March	1	2 SOL Window Late Bus Day	3 SOL Window Late Bus Day HHS Counselor visit Reports Cards Mailed	4 SOL Window PTA Meeting 7:00 PM	5 Late Bus Day Touching Bases (PM)	6	7
	8	9 Late Bus Day	10 Chorus Concert 7:00 PM	11 Late Bus Day	12 Late Bus Day	13 Pie Day Observed District Orchestra Fest HMS vs LH Basketball 7:00 PM @ LH	14 District Orchestra Fest
	15	16 Late Bus Day T-Birds Reward Party	17 Saint Patrick's Day	18 Late Bus Day CCP Café 2:30 PM Talent Show Interest Mtg 2:30 PM	19 Late Bus Day	20 International Night 7:00 PM Cafe	21
	22	23 Late Bus Day 8 th Grade Talent Show tryouts	24 PTA Civics Career Day	25 Late Bus Day 7 th Grade Talent Show tryouts	26 Late Bus Day	27 SCA Spirit Day	28

