

Herndon Middle School and PTA Newsletter

Mark your Calendar

October 1st

Late buses started
After-school programs started

October 2nd

Magazine Drive ends

October 3rd

PTA Meeting, 7 pm, Library
Topic – After School Programs

October 5th

Interims go home

October 8th

Columbus Day Holiday
No school

October 10th

HHS PTSA Boundary Study
Meeting
HHS Lecture Hall, 7pm

October 13th

Herndon Homecoming
Parade and Football game

October 16th

Health Screening

October 17th

Early dismissal, 11:20 am

October 18th

TJHSST Information Meeting
2:30 pm

October 19th

8th Grade Career Fair
8:30am – 12:30pm, Gym

October 22nd

Band Ice Cream Social
2:30 pm, Cafeteria

October 24th

SCA Elections, during school
Chorus Ice Cream Social
2:30 pm, Cafeteria

October 29th – 30th

Drama productions
7:00 pm, Auditorium

November 2nd

1st quarter ends

Calendar continues on page 3

Principal's Corner

We have had a wonderful beginning of this school year! As I shared at Back-to-School Night, our staff and students are off to a great start. This year our students and teachers will renew their commitments to concentrate on the Standards of Learning (SOLs) with a newly developed tool called eCART (Electronic Curriculum Assessment Resource Tool). This resource will help teachers develop assessments for students similar to the SOL test questions and improve their performance.

Our annual magazine fund-raiser is now underway and ends this week. We encourage sales to family and friends. The proceeds will be utilized to fund enrichment activities for all students including instructionally related field trips.

Late buses began on Monday, October 1st. They are available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Our teachers are available for extra help and our media center is open for research and study on late bus days. Please encourage your child to become involved with our After School Program activities.

On Wednesday, October 17th, students will be dismissed from school at 11:20 a.m. We will have a three-hour early closing along with Herndon High School to allow our faculties an opportunity for vertical articulation. We have a unique situation at Herndon Middle School, because we are the only feeder school. This year, as a part of our School Improvement Plan, we are going to participate in more vertical articulation sessions with the high school and even use the same instructional assessments for our high school credit courses.

Interims will be distributed to students on Friday, October 5th. If your child needs to improve his/her academic achievement, he or she has time to do so before the end of the first quarter on November 2nd. I ask that you join with the staff in stressing the importance to your child of academic success throughout the school year. On November 12th from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., please join us for Touching Bases, the middle school version of conferences. Parents can meet with their children's teachers for brief 3 minute conferences.

A major goal of the school is to provide a safe and secure environment for students. In order to accomplish this goal, we need your support. I am appalled at the number of parents that drop their students off in front of the school and ask them to run in front of oncoming traffic. We are requesting parents use our Kiss and Ride location in the rear of the school. Please drop your children off at the appropriate area, it is for their safety.

When requesting an early dismissal please send in a note or give us a call so that your child is ready when you arrive. Remember, you must show proper identification.

Parental involvement is crucial to the success of our students. Parents and teachers working together can have a tremendous impact on students' successes. We encourage you to join our PTA and be actively involved in school activities throughout the year. Our PTA meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the HMS Library.

Please call with your questions, concerns and compliments. The school year is off to a promising start and all indications are that it will be a very productive year. Thank you for your continued support.

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**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 will be communicating with you via emails and will keep you informed of upcoming events pertaining to your grade level. See newsletter articles for more info.

Your PTA Needs You!

The PTA is responsible for organizing and running many programs that all of our children benefit from throughout the year. Please get involved with your child's education!

We need parents to work "behind the scenes" at events such as the upcoming Health Screening, Touching Bases, Book Fair, Hospitality Committee events, and more. We are also in need of an Orchestra liaison and a volunteer to be the liaison to the Greater Herndon Community Coalition and attend their monthly meetings.

To volunteer, please contact Amy Peterson, 703-430-3968 or jr_ab_peterson@hotmail.com.

From Your PTA President

We are off to a great start at Herndon Middle School!

Dear HMS Families,

Thank you to all of you who came out for Back to School Night. It was a great success, and hopefully you enjoyed meeting all of your child's teachers and "running his or her schedule" (literally!) As you can see, there is little time for goofing off at HMS. Our children are on the move and in their classrooms at a quick pace! Hopefully, your children have settled in to their routines at HMS.

Thanks to all who have joined the PTA and who have sent in their donations for the "Go for the Gold" program (the PTA's only fundraiser for the year). We are currently near \$3,500 in donations for Go for the Gold, and our budget is \$5,010, so we are getting close! If you have not yet made a donation, please consider doing so. The money you donate is 100% tax deductible, and helps subsidize school-sponsored programs and learning enrichment tools that benefit each child attending HMS. We are still taking forms for memberships, volunteers, and Go for the Gold, so please turn them in to the office if you have not yet done so.

We sold many student directories at Back to School Night. Thank you! We will continue to sell them through the front office all year as long as they last. The cost is \$5 each. If you have not designated your Giant, Safeway, Harris Teeter and Target cards, please do so, as we start over each school year. Please look for more information regarding these programs in this newsletter.

I am extremely lucky to be surrounded by such highly motivated, dedicated and hard working parent volunteers who have made my job a much easier one. And, of course, there is *always* room for more of you to come out, offer your talents, and have fun in the process. I would like to take this time to extend a big thank you to the following individuals. Thank you to Gabriele O'Bryan and Kathy Blystone, our Magazine Drive Committee chairs, and their committee for working so hard on the annual HMS Magazine Drive. It kicked off on Sept. 14th and ran until Oct. 2nd. It was very successful. Thanks to all the families who participated in this important school fundraiser. Thanks to Jeanne Talbot and Marilyn Currence, our Hospitality Committee chairs, and their committee for a delicious Back to School Luncheon for the staff on August 31st. We appreciate all the events that Hospitality brings us! Thanks, also, to Kathy Blystone and Karen Temple, our Landscape committee chairs, their husbands, and their 7th grade Girl Scout Troop #975, for their hard work in beautifying our school grounds. And, thanks to Terri Phillips for creating our school directory. She worked countless hours, and her efforts truly paid off.

Touching Bases is coming up on November 12th. This is the middle school version of parent-teacher conferences. Your time for these conferences is really limited, so please be timely and respect the time guidelines. If you need more time with your child's core teachers, please contact your child's guidance counselor and schedule an appointment for a more formal meeting at another, mutually convenient time.

I look forward to seeing you at a PTA meeting soon. The meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at 7pm in the HMS Library. Until then, please feel free to contact me about any questions or concerns you may have.

Nancy DerSimonian
ndersimonian@cox.net, 703-437-8254

HHS PTSA Boundary Study Meeting

The Herndon High School PTSA invites you to their **October 10th** meeting at 7:00 pm in the Herndon High School Lecture Hall featuring the PTSA Boundary Study Committee Presentation

Don't miss this very important meeting which will feature a complete explanation of the Boundary process, Herndon High School's involvement, a review of demographics and statistics, and a way for parents to get involved in the scheduled School Board meetings.

This issue concerns every family in the Herndon High School pyramid. Any decision made by the School Board will take effect beginning with students entering high school in the fall of 2008, that means the Class of 2012, this year's 8th graders. However, any decision which includes Herndon HS in the redistricting, will affect ALL CURRENT Herndon students as well.

Be sure to attend this very important information session. Feel free to invite neighbors and others in the Herndon pyramid. See page 15 for more information about the Boundary Study Committee.

After School Program at HMS

The Herndon Middle School After-School Programs began on October 1st. We have various clubs for students to choose from with additional clubs to be added later in the school year. We are requiring the students in the after-school program to stay after-school one late-bus day per week to work on academics with a core teacher. Students who have completed all of their homework assignments and who have a 3.0 or better in their core classes may tutor other students, work on their homework, or get their teachers to write in their

planner that they do not need to stay after-school that week for academics. We're also encouraging each student in the after-school program to give one hour per quarter in a community service activity. Our goal is for our after-school students and after-school staff to give a total of 1000 hours of community service for the 2007-2008 school year.

The list of after-school activities and days the club will be meeting is listed on the HMS website, www.fcps.edu/HerndonMS, under "Activities"

The current after-school programs include:

- Anime Club – Ms. Kmetz
- First Lego League Club – Mr. Galton & Mrs. Biddle
- Cross-Country – Mr. Hudson
- Basketball League – Mr. Hudson, Mr. Harris & Mr. Tran
- Soccer League - Mr. Hudson, Mr. Harris & Mr. Tran
- Games Club (character education games) – Mr. Tran
- ESOL Club – Mrs. Rossell
- Peer Tutoring (with NJHS) – Mrs. Warriner
- Peer Mediation – Mr. Grayson
- Weight Room – Mr. Marcy
- Cheerleading – Mrs. Simpson
- Ping-Pong Club – Ms. Helm
- DJ Club (w/ prevention activities) – Mr. Pacheco
- Book Club – Ms. Ruffle
- Bike Club – Mr. Dim
- Art Club – Ms. Simanski
- Step-Team – Ms. Logan
- Yoga Club – Mrs. Srinivasan

If you have any questions or concerns about the after-school program, please contact Michael Thomas, the after-school program specialist at Herndon Middle School, at Charles.Thomas@fcps.edu or 703-904-4834.

On Tuesdays and Fridays, students can also choose to take advantage of the Herndon Community Center

October / November Calendar continued

November 5th - 6th
Teacher Work Days
Student holidays

November 7th
PTA Meeting, 7 pm, Library
Topic – Bullying

November 9th
Report cards go home

November 12th
Touching Bases
7:30am – 9:30am
Late opening: 10:20 am

November 21st
2 Hour Early Close

November 22nd and 23rd
Thanksgiving Holidays

November 29th
8th Grade Honor Roll
8:00am, Auditorium

November 30th
7th Grade Honor Roll
8:00am, Auditorium

Teen Center. The HCC provides bus transportation to the community center from HMS and requires parent pick-up by 6pm (or students can walk home with parent permission). The HCC has a Teen Room with an Xbox, air hockey, flat screen television, video games, computers, and a place to work on homework. They have a Game Room with ping-pong, pool and arcade games. Students can also play basketball in the gym. There is a fee of \$15 for Teen Center Membership, which allows unlimited access to the community center for the entire school year from 2:30 to 6 every weekday afternoon. On Tuesdays students can also take part in an hour-long Urban Life Skills class for a fee. Scholarships are available for those in need on a case-by-case basis. Contact the HCC at 703-435-6800 for more information.

Late Buses

Late buses started October 1st. Every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday students will have the opportunity to stay after school to meet with teachers for extra help or to take part in one of the many extracurricular activities at HMS. FCPS provides bus transportation on late bus days.

HMS has only 8 late buses. The schedule and stops are quite different from the regular buses so the runs will take longer and there are fewer stops. The late bus schedule and bus stops are posted in the cafeteria and on the rear windows of the school. Teachers also have copies of the schedules.

The activities end at 3:30. Students will stay in the cafeteria until the buses arrive. On Mondays buses leave at 4:00, and on Wednesdays and Thursdays they leave between 4:00 and 4:30.

After-Hours Emergency Phone Number for Transportation

As a parent, we know that your number one concern is your child's safety. We also know that it is frustrating—or even frightening—when you need to call someone for information about your student's whereabouts after school hours and the phones are not being answered.

To help, if your child has not yet returned home on the expected bus and you can not get in touch with him or her, the FCPS school security office, at 703-764-2400, can be called to contact transportation staff members after 5 p.m., who will work to determine when your child should arrive at their bus stop.

FIRST LEGO League

2007-08 is the first year of HMS students' involvement in *FIRST* LEGO League (FLL). FLL is a result of an alliance between [FIRST](#) (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) and the [LEGO Company](#). Guided by adult

mentors and their own imaginations, FLL students solve real-world engineering challenges, develop important life skills, and learn to make positive contributions to society.

FLL was started in 1998 as a program for 9-14 year olds "...to create a world where science and technology are celebrated... where young people dream of becoming science and technology heroes." (Dean Kamen, Founder, *FIRST*) As of 2006, children in 44 countries were active in FLL.

HMS's involvement is being encouraged and facilitated by the Herndon High School Robotics Team. All interested students are invited to attend the after school meetings which are taking place on all late bus days until the November competition and weekly thereafter.

Magazine Fundraiser

Thank you! We would like to thank everyone for generously participating in a very successful magazine sale. The sale ended October 2nd, with students accumulating cash and prizes galore, plus promises of a BMX Stunt Team Bike show and limousine rides! Hooray! Magazine sale profits directly support many of our school's valuable programs.

A very special thank you goes to Gabriel O'Bryan and Kathy Blystone who spearheaded a very spirited parent volunteer effort and ensured a highly successful magazine sale for this school year. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped out. To all that participated, thank you for making this year's magazine sale a very big success.

Remember to save those magazine renewals for the magazine drive in September next year.

Herndon Homecoming

HMS will have a float in the Herndon Homecoming Parade to be held on Saturday, October 13 starting at 9:30 along Elden Street. Ms. Simanski, one of our art teachers, and several students, are working hard to make our float a must see.

The theme this year is the "Seasons from Jamestown to Herndon". The float will be decorated with flowers representing the seasons. Drama students will dress in costumes of the different centuries. Our very own HMS Marching Band will be marching in the parade. Come to the parade and cheer on the HMS float and Marching Band.

8th Grade Career Fair

Eighth grade students will have a unique opportunity to visit with representatives of nearly 30 career fields at Herndon Middle School's Career Fair on **Friday, October 19**. This joint effort of the Counseling Department and PTA will bring together representatives from the fields of law, computer science, health professions, accounting, engineering and more.

Students will visit the Career Fair during their Civics period, and will complete an assignment for their Civics class in connection with the Career Fair. The success of this event, a first for HMS, depends on having a wide variety of career representatives available to meet with our students. If you would like to share information about your career with the workforce of the future, we are still accepting volunteers! Please contact Donna Patchett at 703-925-0925 or dpatchett802@verizon.net.

Parent Liaison

HMS has a new Parent Liaison, Erla Reyes. She can be reached at 703-904-4914, erla.reyes@fcps.edu. Her office hours are from 11:30 to 4:00 Monday to Friday. Ms. Reyes also speaks Spanish.

HMS Cultural Heritage Night

Celebrate Your Heritage at Herndon Middle School!

When: Thursday, November 29th
Location: HMS Cafeteria
Time: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

RSVP by November 19th; put the completed flyer in Mrs. Rossell's mailbox.

There will be entertainment, door prizes, and fun for the whole family.

Please bring your favorite dish to share. Sign up to dance, play an instrument or wear a native costume. Flyers will be distributed in your child's Social Studies or Civics classes.

Herndon Middle Literacy: Reading Initiative

This is the second year that the students, faculty, and staff at HMS are participating in a literacy program which provides a 30 minute reading period for every student. A school wide literacy program called Herndon Middle Literacy (HML) was developed by the school reading committee. H.M.S. data and the Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI) scores were analyzed and these results showed a need for a focus on reading. This program is designed to help students think about connections through reading, writing, and talking about different types of literary sources. The data from last school year showed great improvement in reading scores and the school is very happy with these results.

After studying several types of scheduling options, the decision was made to link the reading time to the lunch period. The school has created four daily free reading periods which accommodate all of our students. During this designated time everyone understands that this is not a study period for students or a grading period for teachers;

everyone is expected to read. Each reading class has a classroom library. These books are available to students to borrow for reading during the HMS Reading Initiative.

Speakers at PTA Meetings

Michael Thomas, the Herndon Middle School After School Program specialist, and Steve Golobic, the Teen Club representative from the Herndon Community Center (HCC), will be present at the October 3rd PTA meeting to discuss the After School Program partnership between the HCC and Herndon Middle School. They will inform us about all of the after school programs offered for the students, upcoming events, and trips for teens. The PTA meeting will begin at 7:00 in the library, and Mr. Thomas and Mr. Golobic will begin speaking at 7:30. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to hear first hand of the offerings available for your child through the After School Program.

At the November 7th PTA meeting, Sarah Ince and Treona Bateman, both clinical social workers, will present on the topic of bullying. Ms. Ince gave an extremely insightful presentation last May on the topic of Adolescent Development and Positive Parenting, and we are confident that we will all benefit from this presentation as well.

Please mark your calendars and we hope to see you there.

Thomas Jefferson High School Applications

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) is a Virginia Governor's School for gifted students interested in science and technology and is open to all Northern Virginia students by application. On October 18th at 2:30, HMS will hold an information meeting for interested 8th graders. All applicants must be enrolled in Algebra or higher in 8th grade.

Applications will be available from Mr. Truncale and Mrs. Cooke in Guidance starting October 1st and are due by October 26, 2007. The admission test will be given on December 1st. Call TJ at 703-750-8335 if you have any questions.

Library News

Please consider volunteering in the library. We need help with shelving and small projects throughout the year and will also need help with the book fair in December. Please contact the PTA Volunteer Coordinator Amy Peterson, jr_ab.peterson@hotmail.com, 703-430-3968, and she'll direct you to the appropriate coordinator.

The library has over 600 new books and books on tape in the library that arrived this summer. The library also subscribes to more than 25 magazines. We have something for every interest and reading level, so please encourage your child to use the resources from the library. Students can come to the library between 7:10 and 7:20 am, after they eat their lunch with a pass from the cafeteria, after 2:20 (without missing their bus or ride!), or with a pass from class. English classes come for a library orientation or refresher for the eighth graders. Other classes come for research or lessons on how to use the library's resources.

Sheri Ruffle, librarian

Reflections at HMS

Are you looking for a way to express yourself and show others your talent as a photographer, visual artist, writer, composer, choreographer, or film producer? See the flyer on page 17 for more information on how to enter the Reflections program at HMS. Entries are due by lunch on October 16th.

Herndon Community Center Middle School Dances

You may have heard your child talking about the middle school-age dances held at the Herndon Community Center. The dances are held monthly at the Community Center for middle school students. Although they are technically open to students from all schools, they are advertised and draw from Herndon Middle School, Rachel Carson Middle School, and St. Joseph's School.



The first scheduled dance for the 2007-08 school year was held Friday, September 29th. The schedule for the rest of the year is:

- Halloween Dance Oct 12
- Teen Night Nov 9
- Dance Dance Revolution Dec 14

The dances are from 8:00pm to 10:30pm at the Herndon Community Center. There will be a DeeJay, game room, movie or Xbox and room to mingle with friends.

Please note that the dances are not sponsored by Herndon Middle School or FCPS, but by the Herndon Community Center (HCC). HCC staff sell dance tickets at the school during lunches at HMS prior to the dance. Tickets are \$4.00 in advance. Tickets may also be purchased at the door; with a current HMS Student ID card (not yet issued) or if the student is accompanied by a parent.

Herndon Police officers and HCC support staff provide security at all dances, and parent volunteers are welcome as well. To volunteer, contact the Herndon Community Center, 703-435-6868.

HMS Yearbook

See flyer on page 19 for more information and the order form for the full-color HMS yearbook.

HMS Directory

The 2007-2008 HMS Directory will be available the week of October 1st. If you pre-ordered a directory, your copies will be delivered to your student. If you didn't get a copy of the directory or need another one, they will be on sale in the front office for \$5 starting October 5th.



HMS Band News

The HMS Band program has over 180 students in 5 band classes and 2 after-school bands, Jazz Band and Marching Band. The HMS Bands have been nicknamed the "Spirit of Herndon." Soon the bands will be sporting their new, very own logo.

Jazz Band auditions will be held in late fall and practices will occur on Thursday afternoons. The HMS Marching Band is the ONLY middle school marching band in Fairfax County. The "Spirit of Herndon" Marching Band will participate in the Herndon Homecoming Parade and Football Game on October 13th. Let's cheer them on!

On December 6th, 7th and 8th there will be a HMS Band fundraiser at Barnes & Noble in Reston. When purchases are made with a special coupon, 10% of the proceeds will go towards the HMS Band Program. The coupons will be available on-line and at the school later in the fall. For more information contact Joan Indyke at jindyke@verizon.net.

Drama Club Will Perform Two Halloween Plays

The drama club will be performing "The Halloween Ball – Cinderella With a Ghoulish Twist" and "Halloween Sleeping Beauty" on October 29th and 30th in the school auditorium at 7:00 p.m. These plays are full of fun characters and are a tradition here at HMS. Students interested in participating in the

production and joining the club should come to the auditorium on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays during the month of October unless otherwise announced. Attendance is not mandatory for all the meetings. Members will also be participating in the Herndon homecoming parade.

TADA Offers Workshop for Students Interested In Drama

The Theater Arts Directors of Fairfax County Middle Schools will sponsor their annual workshop at Franklin Middle School on Saturday, October 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Students from across the county participate in their choices of four workshops in many areas of drama. The workshops are given by professionals in their dramatic fields.

There is a registration fee of \$10.00. Students interested in attending should contact Mrs. Williams in the drama room as soon as possible.

Books Needed

HMS needs middle school book donations from parents to supplement the classroom libraries for the Literacy Program. All age-appropriate fiction and non-fiction books are appreciated. Please realize that we have readers on all levels. Book Donation boxes have been placed in the Main Office or students can bring the books to their teachers. Thanks to all of you who have donated books, your generosity is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, you can contact Mrs. Lenore Waggoner at Lenore.Waggoner@fcps.edu.



Join the HMS PTA TODAY!!!

At the middle school level, there are less family events and opportunities to volunteer, but as many or more educational opportunities for you and your child. 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, suggest changes with your input and support HMS.

So far 244 parents have joined the HMS PTA, but that is just 1/4 of the school's population! 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. Support all HMS children! If you haven't joined already, please take a moment to join the PTA today using the membership form below.

Lesley Aschenbach,
PTA Membership Chair,
Lesleyasch@prodigy.net
703-787-9159

Go for the Gold Update

The Go for the Gold total as of October 1st is \$3,500. Way to go HMS families, we've raised almost 70% of our goal already! Thanks for your support. This is the only PTA fundraiser of the year and it all goes to support PTA and HMS programs. You can still donate by completing the membership form below.

The PTA Can Always Use Volunteers!

Volunteering for the HMS PTA is a great way to get to know your child's teachers, administrators and school while at the same time supporting a very worthwhile cause...your child's education. The PTA has many opportunities for you to get involved either in an ongoing committee like Hospitality, Library or Office work. If you prefer a one time commitment then getting involved with Reflections, Touching Bases or the spring basketball game might be the right choice for you. Either way getting involved is a fun way to stay involved with your child and get to know some new parents. Please contact me for a volunteer form. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Amy Peterson
HMS PTA Volunteer Coordinator
jr_ab_peterson@hotmail.com
703-430-3968

7th Grade Parent Liaisons

On behalf of the Herndon Middle School PTA, we have compiled a database of 7th grade parents to communicate with parents on matters of importance to the 7th grade during the 2007-2008 school year. This PTA program is designed to keep parents involved and informed at Herndon Middle School. 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

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 = \$ _____

8th Grade Parent Liaisons

On behalf of the Herndon Middle School PTA, we have compiled a database of 8th grade parents to communicate with parents on matters of concern to the 8th grade during the 2007-08 school year. This PTA program is designed to keep parents involved and informed at Herndon Middle School. We hope those of you who are already on the email distribution list have found the email messages sent out last year to be informative and helpful. This year, you will receive information pertaining to high school registration, high school activities, as well as the High School Boundary Study, which may affect our children.

If you are not already on our 8th grade parent database, we would like to include your email address. Please send an email message to AMR9000@aol.com to list your email address with us. You may include multiple email addresses (work, home, etc.) If you have already received Parent Updates during 7th grade, please do not send us your email address again. However, please notify us of any email address changes and updates. Any questions, please feel free to contact the email address listed above.

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

Hospitality

We'd like to thank all the HMS families who so generously donated time, food and funding to make our annual Back-to-School Luncheon a huge success. Our wonderful, hardworking teachers and the entire staff enjoyed a veritable smorgasbord of delicious lunch items and desserts on August 31st, before welcoming our students back to school.

We will be hosting our next event, the Bus Driver Appreciation Breakfast, on Friday, October 12th. Our dedicated, unflappable bus drivers deserve a break from safely shuttling our children; and to show our appreciation we'll be treating them to a hearty breakfast. An email will be coming soon with more details about how you can help.

We are still looking for **VOLUNTEERS** to plan and coordinate our Honor Roll Receptions and Touching Bases events.

We serve refreshments to approximately 300 students and parents following each of the 7th and 8th Grade Honor Roll Assemblies to be held following the 1st, 2nd and 3rd grading periods.

We also feed our teachers during Touching Bases; breakfast in the Fall and lunch in the Spring. This is a great way to get to know your child's teachers in an informal setting.

We **REALLY** need your help! If you'd like more information about these positions, or if you'd like to become a member of the Hospitality Committee, please feel free to drop us an email. We'll keep you posted as to how you can help with future fun events.

*Marilyn Currence
MBCurrence@comcast.net
Jeanne Talbot
jmtalbot@cox.net
HMS Hospitality Committee Co-
chairs*

Parent View for Blackboard

FCPS is pleased to allow parents their own accounts in Blackboard. Now you can see all of your children's classes in Blackboard using one log-in no matter which FCPS school they attend. Additionally, with the Parent View,

you can update emergency contact information. See the next article for details.

To begin using this new access feature in Blackboard, you must go to the FCPS Blackboard web site: <http://fcps.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>

Use the following initial log on information:

Username: parentreg
Password: newuser

Follow the on line instructions for registering yourself. You will be provided a unique registration key. Write down or print off the registration key and bring it to Herndon Middle, where we will verify that you have permission to see your child's information (we still must maintain our children's safety). Once your ID has been verified, your password will be emailed to the account you specified in the on-line registration process.

We are pleased at how well this feature is being received by parents at Herndon Middle. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school for clarification.

Update Emergency Care forms through weCare@school

Fairfax County Public Schools is committed to ensuring that the climate in all FCPS facilities is safe and secure. In support of this goal, FCPS is pleased to announce that the **weCare@school** (weCare) emergency care information system is now available to FCPS parents and guardians who have registered for their own FCPS 24-7 Learning account also known as Blackboard.

weCare@school helps manage emergency medical information by enabling parents to enter and update their children's medical data at their convenience.

Once you have set up a Blackboard account and the validation is complete, parents can log on to FCPS 24-7 Learning at <http://fcps.blackboard.com> and update their children's medical information, contact information, and physician information at their convenience. The new technology will complement the current emergency care form that parents are asked to fill out at the start of each new school year.

One of the benefits of the new service is that it will enable first responders in schools—such as police officers, nurses, principals, and assistant principals—to securely access the most current emergency care and location information on students via wireless handheld devices and cell phones. The new technology will also allow school personnel to fax emergency care information from the handheld devices to hospital emergency rooms.

Once a parent updates his or her child's information using weCare, the student information assistant at the school can review the submission and confirm the information before the student information database is updated.

Quick reference help information is available within FCPS 24-7: Parent View, and helpdesk support is accessible by phone at **1-866-434-8880**. For additional information about weCare, please visit <http://www.fcps.edu/news/wecare.html>.

Health Screening

On Tuesday, October 16th HMS will hold a Health Screening during your child's PE class. If your child wears glasses, be sure that they either wear them or have them with them that day.

College Partnership Program

The College Partnership Program (CPP), which began in 1989,

nurtures positive attitudes toward academic achievement. The primary goal and emphasis of the program is to increase the number of students, particularly first generation and minority students, who enroll and succeed in college.

Students are exposed to information and opportunities that allow them to create a vision, set goals, and develop strategies that will direct them toward college choices and career goals.

The program meets once a month on Mondays or Thursdays from 2:30 to 3:30. Any student interested in joining this program should contact Mrs. Cooke in the main office or call 703-904-4885 to speak to her about joining the College Partnership Program.

The Schedule for the year is:

- October 15** - Open Recruitment
- October 22** - Introduction Activity
- November 26** - Goal Setting and Study Skills Activities
- December 6** - CPP Day
- December 17** - Organizational and Learning Styles Activities
- January 28** - Note Taking and Test Taking Skills Activities
- February 25** - Self Esteem / Self Assessment Activities
- March 31** - College Trip Preparation Activity
- April 28** - College Trip
- May 28** - Writing Skills Activity/ Student Evaluation
- June 9** - End of Year Activity

Letter to CPP

Mrs. Cooke and the College Partnership Program received a complimentary letter in April, 2007 from Delta Academy, a national program sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. The letter is summarized below.

The 2006-2007 program was quite successful due to the combination of working within Herndon Middle School College Partnership Program's framework and external

activities. In addition to attending monthly College Partnership Program meetings/field trips and working with all of the participants, we had opportunities to meet with Delta Academy participants to discuss their monthly activity calendars and encourage them to remain active in the College Partnership Program.

We have mentored young ladies through a number of activities and they expressed their appreciation. These activities included a parents meeting to explain the goals of Delta Academy and encourage parental support, a business meeting/holiday party at Bowl America, an essay contest, the Middle School Girls Leadership Conference in March, a workshop on skin care and etiquette, and a luncheon at Clyde's in Reston Town Center.

Our mentoring program also included an opportunity for Delta Academy participants to become involved in community service. On April 21, they worked as "Boutique Assistants" during Diva Central. Diva Central supplies prom gowns and accessories to young ladies who can not afford to purchase them. All of the items are donated for the project and given at no cost to those who need them. Delta Academy participants made a very favorable impression on the coordinators of the project.

At the May College Partnership meeting, Sponsors of Delta Academy shared insight on the subject of "Getting Ready for High School and Beyond," where they answered questions pertaining to what is needed to be successful in high school, college and the world of work.

Thank you for your involvement and support and we look forward to working with you during the new school year!

Sincerely,
Cheryl Homer Wilson
Delta Academy Committee Member

Special Education Update

Welcome back - If you are a parent of a child with special needs you may be interested in two listservs that are a wealth of knowledge and support. Special Ed Fairfax, specialedfairfax@yahogroups.com is a great source of information regarding Special Ed. issues and information on what is going on across the county. In addition, it is a wonderful resource for posting questions you may have about a specific issue. You can become a member by sending an email to Ed Fairfax email listed above. There is also an on-line group for parents of children with emotional disabilities at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/edfairfax>. You can become a member by visiting the site.

In addition, if you are interested in issues pertaining to the education of children with disabilities in Fairfax County you are invited to attend the Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities monthly meeting. The committee is an advisory committee to the School Board and works on issues affecting the education of children with disabilities. The public is welcome and public comment is accepted. The meetings take place the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 at the Dunn Loring Center.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Lisa Fagan, PTA Special Ed. Representative, 703-404-0133, fagan6@cox.net.

Student Hawk of the Month

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, Caring, Responsibility, Fairness and Citizenship. Pictures of the selected students are displayed in the main hall and the names are listed in the newsletter.



Foreign Language Credit Program Exam 2007-2008

Is your child fluent in another language other than English, that is can they read, write and speak another language? If your child is fluent in another language then they might be eligible to take the Foreign Language Credit Exam. If your child successfully passes this exam, they are entitled to two (2) high school credits in a foreign language.

How to register: Students should register via the **INTERNET** (only) by going to www.fcps.edu/DIS/OHSICS/forlang/creditemax. Registration must be completed by midnight on Sunday, October 21, 2007. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Languages available: Amharic, Arabic, Bengali/Bangla, Chinese/Mandarin, Farsi/Persian, French, Hindi, Korean, Punjabi, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog/Pilipino, Twi, Urdu and Vietnamese.

What is expected? Students must demonstrate **both orally and in writing**, that they have reached the intermediate range of proficiency as described by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) K-12 Performance Guidelines.

Students who **pass** the credit exam will earn **two foreign language credits** towards the Advanced Studies Diploma.

Students who participate in the **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)** program during grades 7-12 may apply **two units of credit** in the L2 category (course code 5720) toward fulfillment of foreign language requirement for the Advanced Studies Diploma.

Students **MUST** bring a **photo ID** to the testing site. Examples of photo ID are a driver's license, photo school ID, or passport. Students should also bring pen or pencil and

their student ID number. **NO texts or dictionaries** are permitted in the exam room.

Exam Schedule:

Wednesday, November 7, 2007
3:30 P.M.

Westfield High School
4700 Stonecroft Boulevard
Chantilly, VA 20151

Thursday, November 8, 2007
3:30 P.M.

Lake Braddock Secondary School
9200 Burke Lake Road
Burke, VA 22015

Monday, November 12, 2007
3:30 P.M.

West Potomac High School
6500 Quander Road
Alexandria, VA 22307

Please contact Mrs. Rossell, 703-904-4863 or your student's HMS counselor, 703-904-4800 for more information. The Language Arts teachers will also have brochures available.

Counseling Services Available

JSSA is back for a second year at HMS offering on-site individual, group, and family psychotherapy to HMS students in cooperation with HMS Administration and Staff. JSSA, the Jewish Social Service Agency, is a nonprofit organization funded by Fairfax County to deliver non-sectarian psychotherapy services at HMS. Last year, JSSA served approximately 20 HMS students and their families as well as presented on the topic of Adolescent Development and Positive Parenting at the May PTA meeting.

To learn more, speak with your child's HMS Guidance Counselor or contact JSSA directly: Treona Bateman, LCSW, at (703) 204-9100, ext. 120, or tbateman@jssa.org. JSSA hopes to have the opportunity to serve you and your child.

Keep-in-Touch



Be sure to stay in the middle school information loop with the HMS targeted version of Keep-in-Touch.

With this version, you can receive HMS-specific emails in addition to FCPS emails. You can also choose different sub-groups to receive emails from, including academic teams, music department, drama, or other groups that your child may belong to or participate in at HMS.

So, if you do a lot of your correspondence via email, be sure to sign up for this new custom Keep-in-Touch. And if you are already signed up for Keep-in-Touch, update your preferences to add the subgroups that are specific to your child's grade level and course selections. Go to

<http://fcps.medianext.com/herndonm/start.html> and sign up now!

Lunch Accounts

Fairfax County Public Schools is pleased to announce that it now offers three ways to pay for school meals:

- **Online**—Using www.myLunchMoney.com. The service is easy to use, convenient, private, and secure. There is a convenience fee of \$1.95 per transaction. Once the account is open, parents may check the fund account at any time from computer or phone.
- **Check**—Write a check—made out to HMS Food and Nutrition Services—and bring the check to the food service manager's office. Please indicate on the check if payments are to be for meals only (no a la carte items).
- **Cash**—Cash may be brought to the food service manager's office to be added to a student accounts, or students may pay cash for meals on a daily basis.

Parents—Please Note!

- Parents may request a printed summary of their children's account at any time by contacting the food service manager. You may also check the meals from the last 7 days through myLunchMoney.com. You don't need to use the online account for this service, you just need to register.
- Parents are asked to remind their children not to share their personal identification number (PIN) with friends.
- A parent who wants his or her payments to be for meals only (no à la carte items or snacks) should tell the food service manager.

If you have questions, call the Cafeteria Manager at 703-904-4821.

Exhibition at Greater Reston Arts Center

Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) is pleased to present *FLOW: The Landscape of Migration*, an interactive installation by sculptor, Foon Sham. Sham chose to construct a mountainous landscape of cones based on the five essential elements of Chinese culture: Water, Earth, Wood, Fire, and Metal. While the sculptor built and installed the cones, developing the surrounding landscape will depend upon the audience. Transparent cups of blue water, soil with grass seeds, wooden wedges, floating candles, and metal nails are all available for visitors to leave as offerings to FLOW. The artist will return every few days to rearrange the objects.

Over time, the landscape will change as the elements accumulate, grow, or burn out. A visual metaphor for the gifts of immigration, seasonal change, and the creative process, *FLOW* is a peaceful interlude in today's political storm surrounding immigration and

a poignant reminder that new people bringing fresh ideas give us a more complex and vibrant society.

Students and families are encouraged to visit the exhibition and participate in other activities. *FLOW* is open through November 10th. Students in the HMS after-school program will be visiting the exhibition. The artist, Foon Sham, will also teach a sculpture workshop for HMS students as part of the exhibition. To register for programs and tours, please call the gallery.

Gallery open: Tue - Sat, 11 – 5pm
12001 Market Street, Suite 103
Reston Town Center
703.471.9242
www.restonarts.org

Special Events

Hands-on workshop - Oct 13, 10am
Musical Visions (chamber music & exhibition tour) - Oct 4 & Nov 1, 7pm
Reception & Book Signing - Oct 20, 6 – 8 pm

Things I wish I knew as my 7th grader entered HMS

Some words of wisdom from a parent who's "been there, done that".

- 1) Middle schoolers will not share everything with you so you must be prepared to "find out" other ways: talk to other parents, (join the PTA and go to the meetings), talk to their teachers and become familiar with the school; and get to know their friends and their friends' parents.
- 2) Organization is key now that they have individual classes. Figure out the best way to be organized for your child. Fortunately, HMS provides textbooks to stay at home so there's less to carry and the textbook is always at home.
- 3) Your child will tell you that they are in middle school now and DON'T NEED YOU TO SEE

THEIR ASSIGNMENT BOOKS AND HOMEWORK. You have the right to see your child's homework and I encourage you to stay on top of it. Sign up for Parent Portal, check Blackboard and communicate with the teachers! The teachers want you involved and aware of your child's academic success!

- 4) Keep Informed! Register for Fairfax County Schools' Keep in Touch AND Herndon Middle School's Keep in Touch AND the HMS PTA 7th or 8th grade liaison data base AND check the HMS website to stay informed on what is going on at HMS.
- 5) After school programs and late buses started Oct. 1. There are wonderful after-school programs at HMS and I encourage you to take advantage of the many clubs offered. Your child will hear the daily announcements each day and will learn when these clubs meet. They will sometimes need to stay after THAT DAY for a club meeting, to retake a test, to get help with homework, etc. The school will NOT be calling to let you know that your child is staying after. Set up a communication procedure with your child NOW, so that when the time comes to stay after for an activity, you have a system in place to know where your child is and how they are getting home. For example, your child ALWAYS will call you when they are staying after and tell you what they are doing and how they are getting home.
- 6) On late bus days (Mon, Wed, and Thurs), you might want to consider using Kiss and Ride and pick up your child in the line or carpool with a neighbor. The Monday late buses usually run on schedule, but the Wednesday and Thursday late buses are sometimes LATE and your child may not get home until 4:30 or 5pm. The HMS

office closes at 4:00pm on late bus days and will not be answering the telephone. The HMS office personnel cannot track down kids after school unless it is an emergency. Always have the FCPS transportation number handy at all times to check the schedule of a late bus. Bus Transportation Office, 703-446-2000, after hours emergency, 703-764-2400.

- 7) Herndon Community Center sponsors Middle School dances on Friday nights monthly (see article in this newsletter). These are NOT sponsored by HMS, but the tickets are sold at HMS during lunches. These dances are for Middle School kids only and are sponsored by Herndon Community Center.
- 8) PE uniforms – buy 2 of them, so that your child can bring home a set to wash and have an immediate back up to take the next day for PE. They will probably let you know that they brought home their gym uniform to be washed the morning they need it back, so having an extra set at home always helps.
- 9) Don't worry – these can be challenging years! Your child is forming his/her independence and wants to be treated more like a teenager – with this comes much more responsibility. Now more than ever, you need to know what your child is doing, who they are hanging around with, and how they are doing in school. There are many great resources to help you – most of all – other Middle School parents!

Herndon HS Drama Events

Herndon High School Theater presents the classic comedy...

You Can't Take it With You
by Moss Hart and George Kauffman
November 9-10, 7:30p.m.
HHS auditorium
Tickets: \$10 adults \$5 students

And the classic children's show...
Peter Pan and Wendy
December 7 - 8

For further information, please call 703 810 2341 or check the website www.herndonrama.org

Free Money

Sign up for Incentive Programs.
Help our school earn money without buying anything extra. Several local merchants donate money to schools based on purchases made in their stores. Giant, Safeway, Harris Teeter, Target and Office Depot all participate.

For the grocery stores, you just need to sign up for their buyer card programs at no cost to you. You must renew your link to HMS each year either on-line or at the store. Target allows you to link your Target REDcard to HMS. At Office Depot when you buy school supplies, be sure to give the cashier the HMS ID and 5% of qualifying school supply purchases are credited to HMS.

Contact information is listed below:

Store, HMS ID, website
Giant Food 1950
www.giantfood.com/aplus

Harris Teeter, 5080,
www.harristeeter.com

Safeway, 6514558,
www.safeway.com

Target, 103642, www.target.com

Office Depot, 70103937,
www.officedepot.com

Student Discount on Software

Through a special agreement with Microsoft, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students and staff members can now purchase select Microsoft products for home and personal use at great discounts. In addition, Fairfax County Public Schools adult education students are also eligible to purchase through this program.

Student Select is part of Fairfax County Public Schools Technology@Home program. This program seeks to help students, faculty, and staff members with their home technology needs by enabling them to purchase directly from

vendors at educational discount rates. With the latest technology, students, faculty, and staff members can make the best use of instructional and administrative resources from home.

For more information on available products, pricing, and how to order, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/DIT/techathome/studentselect.html>

New National Junior Honor Society Members

In April 2007 the following students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. Congratulations!

Megan Anthony
Jenna Aschenbach
Matthew Banks
Emily Beacham
Jorge Bonilla Lopez
Scott Booma
Taylor Brininstool
Kerry Burtschi
Sophia Campos
Crystal Chu
Domonique Collins
Ryan Culberson
Kaija Flood
Brian Fortna
Christopher Glazier
Andrew Goldin
Caitlin Graney
Sanam Hashemi
Adonay Henriquez Iraheta
Michael Hepfinger
Parker Hill
Thomas Hitchings
Kylee Horstman
Thomas Huang
Troy Hunsaker
Leta Kent
Rasneek Kochhar
Kathryn Zobeck

Mandar Kulkarni
Paul Latimer
Denise Lee
Dominic Leshock
Jack Madden
Aaron Meland
Philip Meyers
Sachin Mishra
Abigale Mullet
Brigdet Newell
Timothy Nixon
Emily O'Rourke
Amanda Pascarelli
Carina Peter
Gabriel Ryan Pike
Ryan Proctor
Anne Pursifull
Kyle Ruskin
Nicole Russell
Ella Rutanen
Benjamin Salvail
Alexis Sneed
Carolyn Tran
Charles Vollmer
Morgan Volpe
Avery Wauben

2007-2008 Bell Schedule

| Period | | Monday, Tuesday, Friday | Red Block Day Wednesday | Black Block Day Thursday |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Warning Bell | | 7:15 | 7:15 | 7:15 |
| 1 st period | | 7:20 – 8:07 | 7:20 – 8:54 | |
| 2 nd period | | 8:11 – 8:58 | | 7:20 – 8:54 |
| 3 rd period | | 9:02 – 9:49 | 9:02 – 10:36 | |
| 4 th period | | 9:53 – 10:40 | | 9:02 – 10:36 |
| | | | | |
| 7th grade 5 th period | | 10:44 – 11:40 | 10:44 – 11:40 | 10:44 – 11:40 |
| 7th grade 6 th period | C Lunch C Reading | 11:40 – 12:10 12:14 – 12:40 | 11:40 – 12:10 12:14 – 12:40 | 11:40 – 12:10 12:14 – 12:40 |
| 7th grade 6 th period | D Reading D Lunch | 11:44 – 12:10 12:10 – 12:40 | 11:44 – 12:10 12:10 – 12:40 | 11:44 – 12:10 12:10 – 12:40 |
| | | | | |
| 8th grade 5 th period | A Lunch A Reading | 10:40 – 11:10 11:14 – 11:40 | 10:40 – 11:10 11:14 – 11:40 | 10:40 – 11:10 11:14 – 11:40 |
| 8th grade 5 th period | B Reading B Lunch | 10:44 – 11:10 11:10 – 11:40 | 10:44 – 11:10 11:10 – 11:40 | 10:44 – 11:10 11:10 – 11:40 |
| 8th grade 6 th period | | 11:44 – 12:40 | 11:44 – 12:40 | 11:44 – 12:40 |
| | | | | |
| 7 th period | | 12:44 – 1:30 | 12:44 – 2:20 | |
| 8 th period | | 1:34 – 2:20 | | 12:44 – 2:20 |
| Final Bell Buses leave | | 2:30 | 2:30 | 2:30 |

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday – Late bus days – Students must be with a teacher or adult when the final bell sounds at 2:30 p.m. Dismiss at 3:30 p.m.

High School Boundary Study Update

The Fairfax County School Board will undertake a High School Boundary Study involving six county high schools, including Herndon High School. The School Board will hold three town hall style community meetings in November and December (see times and locations below). It is imperative that we, as a community, play an active role in this study and participate in all the meetings scheduled. The primary purpose of our Committee is to advocate for ALL our students, and maintain the academic standards and expectations we have come to enjoy at HHS.

The October 10th meeting of the Herndon High PTSA will feature a complete explanation of the Boundary process, and a way for parents to get involved in the School Board meetings. The meeting is at 7 pm in the HHS Lecture Hall. Please plan to attend! All parents in the Herndon Pyramid are welcome to attend.

The Herndon High School PTSA Boundary Committee has developed a Power Point presentation as well as an informational handout to educate parents on this issue that may affect our school in the 2008-09 school year. Take a look at the slide show and review the handout, and check back to this web page regularly for updated information.

http://www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/ptsa/ptsa_act/0708BoundaryChanges/BoundaryChangeCommittee.htm

“Town Hall Style” Boundary Community Meetings Dates:

Note: These are not duplicate meetings.

There will be a different agenda at each meeting, reflecting the Boundary process timeline.

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Monday, November 12, 2007 | 7:30 pm Chantilly High School |
| Monday, December 3, 2007 | 7:30 pm Westfield High School |
| Wednesday, December 19, 2007 | 7:30 pm Oakton High School |

Important sources of Boundary Updates and Information

Herndon High School Web Site Boundary Committee Page:

http://www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/ptsa/ptsa_act/0708BoundaryChanges/BoundaryChangeCommittee.htm

Fairfax County Schools West County High School Study:

<http://www.fcps.edu/fts/planning/westcoboundarystudy.pdf> (see detailed map on page 4)

Stop Redistricting Website (Parent-created)

<http://www.stoprd.org/stoprdorhome.html>

FCPS Capital Improvement Plan 2008-2012 (includes enrollment projections, etc.)

<http://www.fcps.edu/fts/cipbook2008-2012.pdf>

Principals' Tips for Parents – September 2007

Books for Teens to Read

Summer just ended with the last installment of J.K. Rowling's bestselling Harry Potter series. More than three-quarters of the young wizard's fans say that reading the books or listening to their parents read them aloud has encouraged them to read other books. So, how can you find other books that teens want to read? Check out local events that are all about books:

- Teen Read Week is October 14-20 (www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teenreading).

Another good place to look is the Virginia Readers' Choice book list for 2007-2008. Perhaps one of these titles will excite your middle school reader!

Blood on the River by Elisa Carbine

Young orphan, Samuel Collier gives his views as Captain John Smith's page during the founding of Jamestown.

Code Talker by Joseph Bruchac

A young Navajo boy uses his native language as a code for the Marines during WWII.

Day of Tears by Julius Lester

The story begins with the largest slave auction in Georgia in 1859 and continues with many injustices and cruelties of slavery.

Free Baseball by Sue Corbett

Felix Piloto stows away on a minor league team bus in hopes of finding out more about his dad, a famous Cuban baseball player.

Ghost Girl by Delia Ray

The opening of a one-room schoolhouse in the mountains of rural Virginia, gives twelve year old April the chance to learn to read.

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Perseus Jackson discovers his true heritage as the son of Poseidon and a mortal woman.

Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy by Gary D. Schmidt

Turner Buckminster can't find anything good about his move to Maine until he meets Lizzie Bright.

The Sacrifice by Kathleen Benner Duple

This is one family's experience with the Salem witchcraft hysteria.

Shakespeare's Secret by Elise Broach

Hero discovers the mysterious connection between a diamond, Anne Boleyn and Shakespeare's plays.

Stanford Wong Flunks Big-Time by Lisa Yee

After flunking sixth grade, Stanford must give up basketball camp for summer school.



Investigate this year's VRC booklists for all grade levels at www.vsra.org/VRCindex.html

PTA Reflections Program 2007-2008



Theme
I can make a difference by...



**Submit
entries on
Tuesday, 16
October,
during lunch
in the
cafeteria**

- Visual arts
- Musical
Composition
- Literature
- Photography
- Dance
Choreography
- Film/Video

For more information,
please contact Carmen
Middleton, Reflections
Chair,
carmiemiddleton@verizon.
net,
703-689-3803; and see
Reflections info at
[http://herndonmiddleschool
pta.com/](http://herndonmiddleschoolpta.com/)



Please see either the HMS PTA Web site or the following for the student packet: Librarian Sherri Ruffle; Curriculum Coach Lenore Waggoner; English Dept: Mr. Harris, Ms. Haley, Ms. Hatch, Ms. Kelleher, Ms. Galm, Ms. Clark, Ms. Goekel, Ms. Parchment; Center: Ms. Kmetz, Mr. Torrenzano; Arts/Theatre/Music: Ms. Simanski, Ms. Williams, Ms. Bonneau, Ms. McCann, Ms. Gawinski; Mr. Timmes, and Mr. Hersh



**Herndon Middle School is...
...conducting
the 3rd ANNUAL BOOK DRIVE
during
OCTOBER to DECEMBER 2007**

*Cleaning your bookshelves before the new tax year?
WAIT just a minute!!!!!!!*

Before you toss your books or give them away, why not donate them to your child's school?

We want to support our students in their reading by providing them with a wide selection of books that interest them! The purpose of the book drive is to build better classroom libraries for our students here at HMS.

BOOKS SHOULD BE:

- ***Young Adult titles, appropriate for grades 7 and 8 (reading levels from grade 4-12)***
- ***Various genres including fiction, science fiction, historical, classics, folklore, drama, nonfiction...***
- ***Good condition or better***

DELIVER YOUR BOOK CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

- ***Any Herndon Middle School English teacher (boxes in rooms)***
- ***Herndon Middle School Office...Book Collection Box***

This activity is sponsored by The Reading Committee

Please note: books are accepted the entire school year in the book collection box in the main office.

Save Money! Order Early!!

Hello HMS Parents,

This is the form you need to fill out to order your child a copy of the 2007-2008 HMS Yearbook.

Our HMS yearbook is quite special here in Fairfax County. The class is an elective rather than an after-school activity which means a lot more effort and detail goes into the book, the book is 128 pages rather than the 64 pages most middle schools have, and most exciting, the book is one of very few middle school yearbooks to be full color on every page!

The cost of this terrific yearbook is only \$35 if you order before the winter break. For an additional \$3 we will have your student's name stamped on the front of the yearbook. This is a great way to keep your student's yearbook safe from theft. The price will increase after the holiday break.

In order to help maintain accurate records, we ask that all yearbook orders be made by check or money order rather than cash. The processed check can serve as a receipt and can avoid any potential problems that may occur when dealing with cash.

It is important that the form below accompany your check and that you write 'HMS Yearbook' in the memo section of your check. Checks should be made payable to HMS or Herndon Middle School.

Checks can be mailed into 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.

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

Casson Hersh
Yearbook Advisor
Herndon Middle School



2007-2008 Herndon Middle School Yearbook

Cost for the 2007-2008 Yearbook is **\$35** or **\$38** if you would like your child's name stamped on the front. 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 _____
Name Stamp Y__N__ Name to have Stamped _____
Student's 3rd Period Teacher _____
Telephone Number: _____

Please make your check payable to Herndon Middle School. Include *Yearbook* in your check memo.

Checks can be mailed to **HMS, Attn: Casson Hersh; Yearbook Advisor; 901 Locust St., Herndon, Va. 20170** or sent in with your child in a sealed envelope marked Yearbook and delivered to the front office.



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

**Phone:
703.904.4800**

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

Honor, Maturity, Success

Touching Bases

*Monday November 12 7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.
School begins at 10:20 am*

Touching Bases is the parents' opportunity to meet with your child's teachers for a three minute review of their progress. Your student's 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 minute "touching base" conference, you are encouraged to schedule an appointment with the child's team through the team counselor (see the HMS website Teams link for contact information or call the office for further information). To allow for the Touching Bases morning schedule, the students will have a late opening. School will start at 10:20 that day.

We love and need parent volunteers to assist the administration during that morning. This is an especially good opportunity for seventh grade parents new to the middle school to get to know the kids, teachers and meet other parents!

Please contact Beth Bednarek, Touching Bases Chair, for volunteer opportunities at bsbednarek@aol.com or 703-709-9461.

Herndon Middle School
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