

# THE DRAGON'S FLAME

THE PTA NEWSLETTER FOR  
Dillard Drive Middle School

5200 Dillard Dr., Raleigh, NC 27606

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APRIL 2009



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Dillard Drive Middle School Students and Parents,

I hope everyone enjoyed their Spring Break. With Spring upon us, so are those annual standardized tests. Please keep the following in mind as we prepare to administer these tests: April 22 ~ 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Test, May 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ End of Grade Tests, June 5<sup>th</sup> ~ End of Course Test (all students enrolled in Algebra 2), Computer Skills Test ~ May 29<sup>th</sup> & June 2<sup>nd</sup>. It has been great to work with a dedicated staff that approaches each day with their best effort and are professionals that truly care about young people. Our front office staff has been warm and welcoming and I have often heard they are the friendliest group of employees any school could have. It is a pleasure to walk around Dillard Drive Middle's campus and observe a clean and well maintained facility all due to our custodial staff. I would also like to acknowledge our three assistant principals and administrative intern. Their efforts and hard work have been crucial to maintaining the instructional program of DDMS while staying in touch with all of our students. As the end of the school year quickly approaches, many exciting activities will be upon us. I encourage all students to demonstrate their best behaviors. Thank you parents and community members who provide feedback to us regarding areas of concern or celebration. My door is always open to conversations that are centered on best practices. In order for Dillard to be the best we need to be on a path of continuous improvement and work together to accomplish this. Thank you for being supportive of the ongoing initiatives, activities, and experiences we provide to enhance the learning environment!

**RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT:** I have enjoyed 32.5 years in public education. I have been blessed in my career to serve as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal all in this school district. I am also a product of the WCPSS. Effective June 30, 2009, I will retire from the Wake County Public School System. My life has been enriched by having had the opportunity to serve the students, staff, and parents of the Wake County School System. Good luck to all our DDMS dragons and dragonets!!

I will miss you all!

*Teresa Abnon*

Principal

### YEARBOOK ADVANCED SALES HAVE ENDED

It is no longer possible to reserve a copy. Yearbooks will be sold in late May on a first-come, first-served basis. Thank you!

## DDMS PTA NEEDS YOU

Not sure how to get more involved at DDMS? The PTA has several openings for committee chairs for next year including Dragon Fund Drive, Book Fair & Membership to name a few. **There are many ways to get involved without sacrificing a lot of time.** For more info, please contact Debbie Madia @ [dilmadia@aol.com](mailto:dlmadia@aol.com) or 851-0281.

## 'ANNIE, JR.' IN FULL SWING

Dillard Drive's first musical production, "Annie, Jr." will be performed on Thursday, May 7th and Friday, May 8th at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Tickets will be \$5 at the door, with no advanced sales. Cast members have been rehearsing vigorously to develop their characters, sharpen their vocals and perfect their dance numbers. Meanwhile, the directors and parents are busily preparing props, costumes, sets, lighting, sound and music. Over 100 DDMS students and staff members are involved in this production! In order to maintain a strong theater program at DDMS, we are always looking for volunteers, donations of costumes or props, or benefactors to support the program. Please email Toni Ahrens at [tahrens@wcpss.net](mailto:tahrens@wcpss.net) if you would like to support our program, or if you have questions. Be sure to mark your calendars and join us for this amazing and ground-breaking production!

## Artist in Residence: Cong Yuan

Seventh graders will enjoy a week with Asian Artist Cyan Yuan to coincide with their study of Asia. They will broaden their cross-cultural understanding of the Far East and have first-hand experience with a variety of Chinese art forms, including calligraphy and painting. Mr. Yuan was here last year and the students gave rave reviews about their time with him! Born in Hangzou, China, Cong Yuan received formal artistic training at the Central Institute of Art and Crafts and his MFA from the University of Georgia. He now calls North Carolina home and will be visiting from April 27 to May 1. (To find out more about Cyan Yuan and see some of his work, visit: <http://www.unc.edu/~bardsley/nirvana/Cyuan.html>)



**STAY UP-TO-DATE ON EVENTS AT SCHOOL BY SUBSCRIBING TO THE DILLARD E-GROUP:**

send an email to this address:  
[Dillardinfo-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:Dillardinfo-subscribe@yahoo.com)

### Intramural Update

DDMS Intramural Sports Club for our 6th graders began on March 12th. Students have so far participated in Badminton, Ping Pong and Team Handball. Other sports students will be participating in are; Ultimate Frisbee, Floor Hockey, Jump Rope, Kickball, Cage Ball and Wiffle Ball. There are 20-30 6th graders signed up for the months of April and May.

## PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT...

### ENRICHMENT CLUSTERS

2nd semester Enrichment Clusters got off to a great start on February 20th! Enrichment Clusters will meet for 8 Fridays this semester ending on May 1st. Our remediation focus this semester is Reading/Language Arts. Students that need additional support in this area are working in small groups to improve their skills. Students involved in the enrichment portion of our program had 45 courses to choose from. Many courses offered in the fall were available again in addition to adding several new choices. A complete listing of these courses is available on the Dillard Drive website. We are excited to offer this program as we continue to develop methods to meet the needs of our students!

### DILLARD MIDDLE BOOK CLUBS

The 6th Grade Shark team has a boys' & a girls' book clubs that meets once a week at lunch. Mrs. Stevens leads the girls' and Mr. Smith & Mr. Segool are leading the boys' book club. They each have about 20 students who are involved. Ms. Cassidy meets with 2 groups of 12 once a week from the 8th Grade Eagle team and they are all reading a book together. The 8th Grade Roadrunner team has a girls' book club with 8 members.

### BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

Dillard Middle Battle of the Books Team finished tied for 3rd out of 22 teams and missed the final round by 1 question! Please congratulate: Nathan Anderson, Maryam Ahmed, Keely O'Brien, Tracy Edwards, Sarah Whitfield, Mallary Norton, Heather Fuller, Emma Johnson, Miriam Perez, Mary Clarke Worthington, Nishant Singh, Sara Hosseini, and Pranav Kemburu.

### EIGHTH GRADE NOTES

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Roadrunners will be visiting the state capital on April 20th. The entire 8th grade will have the honor of meeting guest speaker, Morris Glass on April 28. Mr. Glass is a Holocaust survivor who has an incredible story to share with our students or as he calls them, "the next generation of memory keepers." Ms. Duerr and MS. Goldman's language arts classes will be starting a multi-genre project on WWII and the Holocaust in conjunction with their unit on Anne Frank.

## CALENDAR

APRIL	
16	Softball v. Ligon, 3:45pm HOME GAME!
17	Enrichment Clusters
18	Lacrosse @ Cary Rec, 10am
20	Softball @ E. Garner, 3:45pm
20	Lacrosse v. Cary Academy, 5:30pm HOME GAME!
20	PTA Meeting, 6:30pm
21	TRACK MEET @ Carroll, 3:45pm
22	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Assessment
22	Boys Soccer @ N. Garner, 3:45pm \$4
22	Rising 6th Grade Open House 6-8pm
23	Softball @ Daniels, 3:45pm
25	Lacrosse @ Raleigh Rage, 10am
27	Softball @ Martin, 3:45pm
27	Lacrosse v. Roxboro, 5:30pm HOME GAME!
27-01	Artist in Residence, Cong Yuan, visits 7th Graders
28	TRACK MEET v. N. Garner & Daniels, 3:45pm - HOME
28	Roller Hockey v. Davis, Dream Sports 4:30pm
29	Boys Soccer v. Carnage, 3:45pm HOME GAME!
30	Honor Roll Recognition
30	Softball v. N. Garner, 3:45pm HOME GAME!
MAY	
04	Softball @ Carnage, 3:45pm
04	Lacrosse v. Cary Christian, 5:30pm HOME GAME!
05	TRACK MEET v. Martin and Carnage, 3:45pm HOME
06	Boys Soccer @ Carroll, 3:45pm \$4
07	Softball v. Carroll, 3:45pm HOME GAME
07	Roller Hockey v. Salem, Dream Sports 4:30pm
7-8	DDMS Performs, "Annie" 6:30pm
9-10	Lacrosse Tourney Wilmington, NC
11	PTA Meeting 12:00pm
12	Roller Hockey v. Davis, Dream Sports 4:30pm
12	Strings Concert, 7pm