

THE DRAGON'S FLAME

THE PTA NEWSLETTER FOR
Dillard Drive Middle School

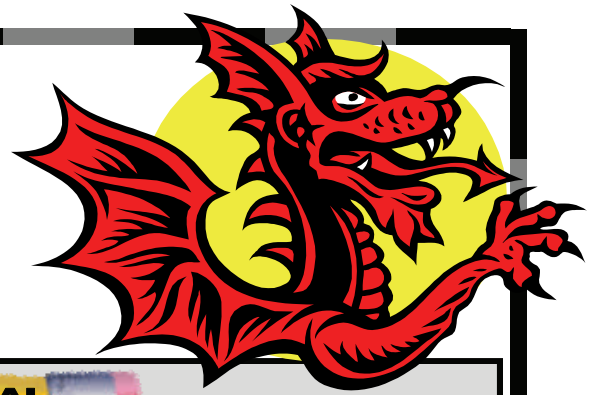
5200 Dillard Dr., Raleigh, NC 27606

<http://dillarddrivems.wcpss.net/>

MAIN: 233-4228 FAX: 854-1615

Attendance: 854-1600 Guidance: 233-4229

DECEMBER 2008



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Dillard Drive Middle School Students and Parents,

The month of December affords us the opportunity once again to gather together with friends and family. The gift of having one another should be treasured, especially during these economically challenging times. We acknowledge there are DDMS families that are going through some financial struggles. When life throws us a curve ball remember to keep strong to your core beliefs and positive attitude knowing things can and will get better.

Our teaching staff continues to focus on the Standard Course of Study. The standards are rigorous, relevant and demanding. Help us to stress to our young people the importance of staying focused as we approach the end of the first semester. Valerie Sparrow, our seventh grade administrator will embark on a new adventure soon. Over the years I have worked with her, it has been pleasure to get to know her both professionally and on a personal basis. On both accounts, I hold her in high esteem. I know the DDMS school family will miss her. She will leave behind her a rich legacy of dedication and commitment, the memory of which shall remain with us in the years to come. Congratulations to Chad Smith, our sixth grade science teacher, soccer and basketball coach on becoming a National Board Certified Teacher. This is no easy feat.

Our Career Fair was one of the best. Thank you Business Alliance Chair, Michael Washington and our Career Development Coordinator, Linda Lowrance and others. Congratulations to all DDMS students that had winning Art & Photography entries at the 2008 N.C. State Fair this year. Their art teacher, Ms. Ann Foster designed the Dillard Dragon on our new gym floor.

Thank you to those parents that attended our Dragon Dialogue during the month of November. Our next Parent Dragon Dialogue will be held on March 26, 2009 from 12:00 - 1:15. Parents will leave with a better understanding of what a typical day of a 7th and 8th grade student looks like; have a better understanding of the instructional focus and direction of DDMS, and receive information regarding student services offered at DDMS. They will also have the opportunity to ask questions of the administrative and support team. All parents are welcome to attend.

Thank you for your continued support of Dillard Drive Middle School and more importantly, your child(ren). We appreciate the great amount of parental support given to our school each year. Together we are making a difference.

Have a safe and joyous holiday season!

Teresa Abron

Principal

Yearbooks are currently on sale for \$25. Go to www.smartpay.com to order yours today!

CALENDAR

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 12/10 | Spittin' Fire Poetry Slam, 6:30-8:30pm |
| 12/11 | Basketball v. E. Garner, 3:45pm, \$4 HOME GAME! |
| 12/15 | Basketball v. Daniels, 3:45pm, \$4 HOME GAME! |
| 12/16 | 6th and 8th Grade Band Concerts, 6:30 and 8pm |
| 12/17 | Winter Piano Recitals during class, Room 205 |
| 12/17 | 7th Grade Band Concert, 7pm |
| 12/18 | Basketball v. Martin, 3:45pm, \$4 HOME GAME! |

THE SALVATION ARMY—COATS FOR KIDS

When: Saturday, December 13th, 10am - 12pm

Where: 215 South Person Street, Raleigh

Please bring the following to receive a coat:

Parent/Adult: Government Issued Photo ID

Anyone receiving a coat: Social Security Card, Birth Certificate, Shot Record, Medicaid Card, QR Green Card.



DILLARD EXCELS ON READING TEST

Dillard met Expected Growth and High Growth! Only 18% percent of Wake Schools met the standards of No Child Left Behind, compared with 40% the previous year. The News and Observer states, "Schools are measured under No Child Left Behind based on whether all groups in a school are meeting targets for passing state math and reading exams. The number of Wake Schools with at least 80% of students passing state exams and meeting growth goals dropped from 69 to 30." Go to the WCPSS web site to see all of the rankings: http://www.wcpss.net/news/2008_nov6_abcs/. Congratulations Dillard Drive Middle!!



REFLECTIONS CONTEST RESULTS

Thank you to all the students who participated in this year's Reflections program! We were very impressed with all of the creative expressions of the theme "WOW"! We will be recognizing each of our participants for their hard work soon! In the meantime, please join the Reflections Committee in congratulating each of these Dillard students. **Literature: 1st - Travis Hinshaw, 2nd - Dawson Tripp, 3rd - Sydney Burton. Musical Composition: 1st - Stephen Perry. Photography: 1st - Hannah Beahm. Visual Arts: 1st - Mary Parker, 2nd - Calvin Olson, 3rd - Rem Salem. Honorable Mentions - Maryam Ahmed, Lauren Childrey, Brittan Coats, Jasmine Gallup, Beatriz Gurgel, Maris Hall, Dawson Tripp.**

We were able to send up to 12 entries from Dillard Drive to the County level competition. Winners at this level will be recognized in February at the Wake County PTA Reflections Celebration and we are happy to report that **TWO** of our students placed at the county level! Congratulations to the following:

MIDDLE/JR (Grade 6 - 8) LITERATURE:	2nd place - Travis Hinshaw (grade 6)
MIDDLE/JR (Grade 6 - 8) MUSIC:	2nd place - Stephen Perry (grade 7)

Congratulations Travis and Stephen!

CANNED FOOD DRIVE

Student Council is sponsoring a holiday canned food drive through December 15th. Students should bring donations to their homerooms. Questions? Contact: Stephanie Eason, season1@wcpss.net or Michelle Smith, msmith19@wcpss.net

BOX TOPS CONTEST IN FULL SWING

We will be holding a General Mills BoxTop contest from now until Dec 17th. The winning class for each grade level will win a special treat! It's time to bring in that envelope or bag of BoxTops you've been holding onto!! Check out your pantry too! Just drop them off in the collection box in your homeroom. Please place them in a bag or envelope with your homeroom teacher's name on it. Don't forget the other easy ways to help Dillard Drive Middle School earn some money. Go to the school website to see how to help: http://dillarddrivems.wcpss.net/PainlessFundraisers_2008.pdf. Funds are down for everyone this year, and this is an easy way to help our school. **EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS!!!**

WCPSS PARENT MATTERS NEWSLETTER

WCPSS Parent Matters Newsletter is now available for online reading. This newsletter is a great resource for parents as it talks about how parents can understand their middle schoolers and gives suggestions about how to get more involved in your child's school.

Go here to read and/or subscribe: www.wcpss.net/parentmatters/fall2008/fall08sec-eng.pdf.

STAY UP-TO-DATE ON WHAT'S GOING ON AT SCHOOL AND SUBSCRIBE TO THE DILLARD E-GROUP:

To subscribe to the DDMS Yahoo E-Group, send an email to this address: DillardInfo-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

DDMS SPIRITWEAR SALE: Winter is here and the days are chilly. Time to order a sweatshirt or hoodie. We currently have hoodies and gym bags in stock! Orders returned by Dec. 10th will be available before break. Order forms can be printed from the school website at: www.dillarddrivems.wcpss.net/PTA/spirit_wear_form.pdf. Drop off order with check to the school office. Due to the number of NSF checks received this year, all orders paid by check will be held until the funds have cleared. Thank you! ☺



DASHING THRU THE SNOW...

Holiday Break: Dec. 22nd - Jan. 2nd
See you Jan. 5th!!

Dragons' Fire Warms Homes

Once again this holiday season, Dillard Middle will be collecting funds to help families with their winter heating bills. If you would like to make a donation, please bring cash or check (made out to DDMS - PTA, noting "holiday drive" in the memo section) to the front office. Donations are being collected through December 17th. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation of \$5, \$10, or \$20 to help a family in need. This is a great idea for kids who are wanting to help a family during the holiday season. They can donate \$1 or more from their allowance! If you have any questions, please contact Matt Regan, School Social Worker, at 854-1622.

SOUND SYSTEM UPGRADE

The DDMS Auditorium sound system is in need of an upgrade this school year before we stage our first musical: *Annie*, in the spring. The cost will be around \$5,000. We are looking for businesses or philanthropists that are just waiting for an opportunity to help with such an expense. If you have connections to an audio company, know of one that would like to help, or would like to donate to our cause - please contact: Carolyn Colquitt, Piano & Choral Music Director, ccolquitt@wcpss.net.