

# THE DRAGON'S FLAME

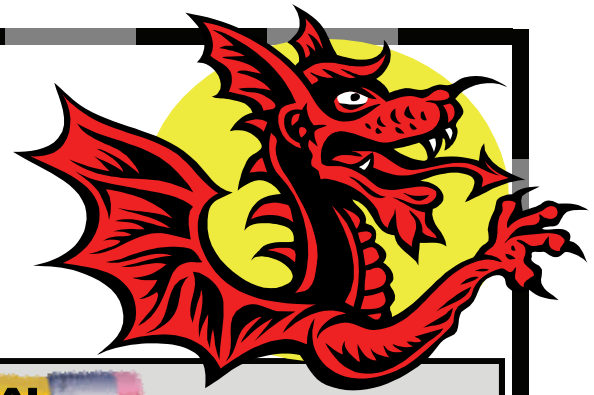
THE PTA NEWSLETTER FOR  
Dillard Drive Middle School

5200 Dillard Dr., Raleigh, NC 27606

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

MAIN: 233-4228 FAX: 854-1615

ATTENDANCE: 854-1600 GUIDANCE: 233-4229



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Dillard Drive Middle School Students and Parents,

Second semester is off to a great start! Our DDMS staff is dedicated to supporting students in reaching their goals. Our faculty's professionalism and expertise contribute to the provision of a world-class education for our students. Congratulations to the Science Olympiad team for their amazing job at Regionals. The team competed against twenty-four other teams from across the District in 23 events. Overall, the team brought home medals in seven events. We were the top non-magnet public school placing overall. The Team was led by Kim Barritt.

Dillard students will participate in the Battle of the Books quiz bowl on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Jennifer Cassidy and Gail Stevens for making this possible. DDMS Intramural Sports Club will kick off March 12, 2009. Sixth grade students will be able to stay after school and participate in a variety of non-traditional sports. Julie Mardis will be sending out permission forms on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to our Business Alliance for securing guest speakers from the community for National Engineers' Week (2/23-2/27). The Business Alliance also provides incentives for both staff and students.

We have held numerous sporting events, concerts, and activities. Thank you for your involvement and attendance. You are an integral part of our school community.

In closing, Dillard Drive Middle School did not get to its present state without the combined efforts of students, staff members, and parents. Thus, I encourage all parents to continue to seek ways to be involved in our school program. Our PTA Parent Involvement Committee Co-Chairs, Susan Hume and Kay Jamison have done an amazing job promoting school spirit and supporting teachers. Thank you for a job well done!

Thanks for all you do at home to support what we do in class!

Go Dragons!

*Teresa Abnon*

Principal

### ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK TODAY!

Go to [www.smart-pay.com](http://www.smart-pay.com) or call 1-800-853-1337. Smart Pay accepts all major debit/credit cards.

### LOVE YOUR TEACHER- LOVE YOUR SCHOOL MONTH

Thank you for your tremendous response to the School Supplies Drive in February. The teachers are very grateful to receive these much needed supplies. Thank you

to the following businesses that generously donated items for the School Supply Drive:  
BJ's Wholesale, Food Lion,  
Harris Teeter, Kmart, Kroger Foods,  
Staples, and Walgreens.

### VANESSA HUDGENS VISITS DDMS

Vanessa Hudgens' visit to our school has generated much publicity! Sixth grader, Jessica Benson was interviewed by NBC-17 on a show that ran last weekend, an article ran in The Cary News last week, reports by News 14 Carolina and E! News Network and there were over 20K hits on the [MyNC.com](http://MyNC.com) web site that has pictures and video of that day. Visit the Dillard Middle web site to find links to these stories: [www.dillarddrivems.wcpss.net](http://www.dillarddrivems.wcpss.net). Did you know that every child went home that day with a Vanessa Hudgens poster and a Sears Gift Card with a value between \$5 and \$100? Only one card was worth \$100. If your child won the \$100 please contact the school's front office, we want to know who the lucky winner is!

### Author in Residence: Sharon Draper

The Media Center and PTA are pleased to announce that renowned author; Sharon Draper will be our Author in Residence for 6th and 8th graders on March 16. Sharon Draper is known for igniting the fire for reading in the lives of thousands of readers. Her books will be for sale after the assemblies at the concession stand and Draper will be signing books. Titles for sale will include: "Tears of a Tiger", "Forged by Fire", "Darkness Before Dawn", "Romiette and Julio", "Double Dutch", and "Fire From The Rock". After purchasing their books, the kids can write their names on a name plate that will go inside their book. Following the assemblies and book signings, a group of 40 of her biggest fans will gather to ask Draper questions about her books and the process of writing. Draper is a professional educator as well as an accomplished writer. She has been honored as the National Teacher of the Year, is a five-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Literary Award, and is a New York Times bestselling author. For more info: [www.sharondraper.com](http://www.sharondraper.com).



## GET THE SCOOP

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

send an email to  
this address:

DillardInfo-  
subscribe  
@yahoogroups.  
com.

## Annie Update

Auditions are over and the cast of *Annie* has been selected. Visit the DDMS web site to see the Cast List! Performances will be held at the DDMS auditorium on May 7th and 8th at 6:30 p.m. Matinees are also tentatively scheduled for an in school audience.

The PTA needs several parent volunteers to proctor the upcoming NC Online Computer Skills tests in March and even more parents to proctor the End Of Grade exams in May, please mark your calendars now to plan to help us! The computer skills tests will be given Wed. March 18, Thurs. March 19, Tues. March 24 and Wed. March 25 in both the morning and afternoon. The EOGs will be Tues. May 19-Fri. May 22 beginning at 8:30AM. The retesting for EOGs is the following week. (These dates will not conflict with proctoring high school exams). More details will be available closer to the date, but please plan on helping the school in this very important way. Questions: Contact Lucy Shockley, DDMS PTA Volunteer Coordinator, at [LShockley@nc.rr.com](mailto:LShockley@nc.rr.com).

Seventh graders will have 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! He will be visiting from April 27 to May 1. To find out more about Cyan Yuan, visit: [www.unc.edu/~bardsley/nirvana/Cyuan.html](http://www.unc.edu/~bardsley/nirvana/Cyuan.html).

Hospitality Committee reports that "fun" was had by all who helped compile and wrap up Holiday presents for Teachers and Staff. Many thanks to all our parent elves who helped! Thanks also go to Bruegger's Bagels and Whole Foods for supplying mugs and reusable bags. Valentine's Day candies were given individually to Teachers and Staff and thanks again to our committee helpers for making this possible. The Hospitality Committee also created a "green" room for visiting singer and star, Vanessa Hudgens, complete with flowers, snacks, drinks and lunch. The singer also was thrilled to find hot tea available. Keeping life fun and comfortable, respectively, Betsy Campbell and Donna Wells.

Mrs. Duerr's 8th Grade Roadrunner students entered a poetry contest. Forty-six (46) poems were accepted for publication in an anthology of poems called *A Celebration of Poets!* Based on the quality of the entries and the high number of acceptance, they were awarded a "Poetic Achievement Award." Thanks to Mrs. Milks who donated a cake and drinks to honor the kids at a ceremony on February 13th!

## CALENDAR

FEBRUARY	
26	Engineer's Day
28	Battle of the Books, Panther Creek
MARCH	
05	EARLY RELEASE - 12:30pm
09	PTA Meeting 12:00pm
09	Club Lacrosse v. YLS, 4:30pm HOME GAME!!!
12	Softball @ Ligon, 3:45pm \$4
16	Author Sharon Draper - 6th and 8th graders
16	Softball v. E. Garner, 3:45pm \$4 HOME GAME!!!
16	Club Lacrosse v. Parrott Acad., 4:30pm HOME
18	Boys Soccer @ Ligon 3:45pm, \$4
19	6th Grade Orientation - registration full
19	Softball v. Daniels, 3:45pm \$4 HOME GAME!!!
21	Club Lacrosse @ Salem, 10am
23	Softball v. Martin, 3:45pm \$4 HOME GAME!!!
23	Club Lacrosse @ Ravenscroft, 5pm
23-27	Book Fair, theme: "Paws for Reading"
25	Boys Soccer v. E. Garner 3:45pm, \$4 HOME GAME!
25	Club Lacrosse v. St. Mary Mag., 6pm HOME GAME!
26	Softball @ N. Garner, 3:45pm \$4
28	Club Lacrosse @ Cary Christian, 10am
30	Spring Picture Day
30	Softball v. Carnage, 3:45pm \$4 HOME GAME!!!
30	Club Lacrosse v. St. Michael's, 6pm HOME GAME!!!
APRIL	
01	Boys Soccer v. Daniels, 3:45pm \$4 HOME GAME!!!
02	Softball @ Carroll, 3:45pm \$4
03	End of Quarter