

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

NOVEMBER 2008



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Dillard Drive Middle School Students and Parents,

We have had a productive first quarter. I have enjoyed seeing many of you at our home games. Our first school dance was lots of fun and our students were at their best. Thanks to our Student Council for sponsoring this event. Thank you to our parents that are attending our Hispanic/Latino Parent Training Workshops. We are meeting every Thursday during the month of October from 6:00-8:30 pm.

Please join me in welcoming our new 8th grade assistant principal, Dorothy Mcgirt. She is a former math teacher and high school/middle school guidance counselor. She served as assistant principal at Cedar Ridge High School before joining us here at DDMS. Our former assistant principal, Tonya Williams was promoted to the principalship.

The (PBS) Positive Behavior Support Matrix has defined student expectations; daily our staff weave expectations into lessons. The staff is implementing a consistent response to various student behaviors to reinforce expectations. We still have some of our young men wearing pants below their waist. Please help us with this by reminding your son to wear his pants up around his waist. We have run out of belts and are now using men's ties. We are suspending students who insist on showing their boxers. On a better note, the first quarterly PBS reward was a field day on October 30. Congratulations to all students that have earned this reward.

Using data, our teachers meet in their PLCs (Professional Learning Communities) to monitor student proficiency on common assessments, chart progress and adjust instruction. Teachers are utilizing effective teaching strategies to increase the percentage of students reaching proficiency for measured skills. Our goal is to tightly align our curriculum, instruction and assessments. With everyone focused on the same target we increase our chances of hitting the mark which is student achievement.

I have met with a number of parents and student to discuss events and programs for the 2008-09 school year. I am open to ideas that give our students opportunities to foster school spirit, help others, and generally foster a positive school climate.

We have a dedicated and caring staff and students with a multitude of spirit and talent. We can be as good as we want to be if we all pull in the same directions. We look forward to another dynamic year with our PTA and Business Alliance.

Go Dragons!

Teresa Abron
Principal

The Run/Walk/Jog Club is open only to 6th graders and is looking for more members! We meet on Wednesdays right after school. Find more info on the website or contact Mrs. Reno kreno@wcpss.net.

CALENDAR

11/11	Veteran's Day-NO SCHOOL
11/13	8th Grade Career Day, 8-11:15am, Gym
11/13-14	Drama Club presents: "A Hairy Tale" 6:30pm, \$3
11/26-28	Thanksgiving Holiday—NO SCHOOL
12/04	Winter Choir Concert, 7pm, Auditorium
12/05	Spittin' Fire Poetry Slam, 6:30—8:30pm
12/09	Winter Strings Concert, 7pm, Auditorium

'TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME...'

Spring 2009 Season: The Club Baseball Team at Dillard Drive will play Middle School Baseball and compete against other club teams in the area including Apex, Fuquay, West Lake, Martin, Lufkin and Daniels. **Club Baseball is not funded by WCPSS.** Player costs will be determined and explained prior to tryouts and will run approximately \$200 to \$260 per player. Costs include a baseball cap and jersey but do not cover baseball pants, belts, socks, cleats, bats, gloves or other equipment.

Who is eligible to participate: 6th, 7th or 8th Grade male students, Academically eligible to play, Proof of Physical within the last year, Good Sportsmanship; strong work ethic, Signed up by November 14th. Organized baseball experience preferred. Tryout dates are below and include an evaluation of speed, agility, hitting, throwing, fielding and catching.

Clinics and tryouts will be held at Bond Park Field #5:
Saturday & Sunday, November 15th & 16th from 2-4:00pm
Saturday & Sunday, November 22nd & 23rd from 3- 5:00pm

When does the playing season begin and end?

Practices for those selected for a team will begin in late January and games will begin in early March. Teams will play a 10 to 14 game schedule ending in late April. E-mail Ross Markbreiter: rossm@thewwwstore.com with questions or for a registration form. Parents interested in assisting or coaching please contact us.





BOYS BAKSETBALL TRYOUT INFO:

Nov. 17th 3:30 - 5:00 - 7th Grade Boys (Last Name A-L)	Nov. 18th 3:30 - 5:00 - 7th Grade Boys (Last Name M-Z)
Nov. 19th 3:30 - 5:00 - 8th Grade Boys (Last Name A-L)	Nov. 20th 3:30 - 5:00 - 8th Grade Boys (Last Name M-Z)
Nov. 21st 3:30 - 5:00 - FINAL DAY (* Selected players from previous tryout dates)	

ADDITIONAL INFOMATION:

- 1) Make sure you bring a completed PHYSICAL to try-outs or you won't be allowed to try-out. If you had one done for football try-outs you don't have to get another one done. You can get the form in the main office, from Mr. Jones, or on Dillard Drive's website, <http://dillarddrivems.wcpss.net>.
- 2) Grades and Behavior will be strongly considered when selecting the team members. Keep your grades up and stay out of trouble to give yourself the best chance possible.
- 3) Bring athletic shorts, a shirt (tank tops are fine), and basketball shoes on your try-out date.
- 4) DO NOT MISS YOUR TRY-OUT DATE. You will not be allowed to come during another date. For more information, please contact: Eric Stafford, MAT, Head Boys Basketball Coach; cstafford@wcpss.net or 854-2386.

PET FOOD DRIVE

Members of the NJHS are initiating a pet food collection for the SPCA pet food bank in November. They are collecting **small unopened bags of high end dry dog and cat food** via home-rooms. Money will not be accepted, only pet food. Thank you for making our drive a success! For more information, contact: Leigh Ann Owens, 233-4228 or lowens2@wcpss.net.

DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS:



We are pleased to announce the third performance of the Dragon Drama Club! of "A Hairy Tale," will be performed on November 13 and 14 at 6:30 p.m.

The supremely bratty Prince Rupert and the equally obnoxious Princess Iphigenia have been exiled to the wild woods of Wychwood and can't return home until they find true love. But who would love such spoiled brats? Could it be Rapunzel and her brother Bill, trapped in an enchanted tower because they refused to get a haircut? Or perhaps Elton and his sister Ernestine, peasant children who sell all the family's electronics for a measly five beans that might be magic? With unforgettable characters like Paprika (the lost Spice Girl) and a pair of paparazzi desperate for a photo of Rapunzel, *A Hairy Tale* will have you laughing until the curtain falls.

Tickets are \$3 per person at the door. Any questions can be directed to tahrens@wcpss.net. Come join us for some fun!

PTA CORNER:

Hospitality Update

Our Fall staff appreciation luncheon was held on Oct. 23rd. Many thanks to all of our wonderful parents who donated and sent in tasty dishes for the staff to enjoy and to those who also came and helped serve, set up and clean! Thanks also to Starbucks who donated coffee and to Harris Teeter, who gave a gift certificate, both located at Tryon Rd. and Walnut St. Each is a regular contributor to our events and we truly appreciate their generosity!

LACROSSE REGISTRATION OPENS

The Dillard Dragons Lacrosse team will be conducting registration beginning Nov. 1st. Forms will be located in the front office as well as by the gym or you can contact Scott Clark at s3wc@yahoo.com to receive one. The Dragons were recognized as one of the best teams in the area last year with a record of 12-3.

Practices will begin in mid February on M, W, F and games will be on Mondays and Saturdays this year. All 6th, 7th and 8th graders are eligible to participate on the team. **Registration is waived for all reduced lunch participants and equipment can be rented by the league or there is limited supply for some equipment from the coach. Lacrosse is a club sport and therefore not funded by WCPSS.** Come out and join the fun! Contact Scott Clark with any questions or for a registration form: s3wc@yahoo.com.