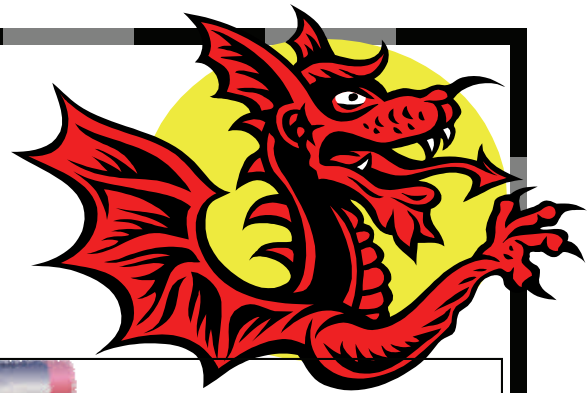


# THE DRAGON'S FLAME

THE PTA NEWSLETTER FOR  
Dillard Drive Middle School

5200 Dillard Dr., Raleigh, NC 27606  
http://dillarddrivems.wcpss.net/  
MAIN: 919-233-4228 FAX: 919-854-1615  
Attendance: 919-854-1600 Guidance 919-233-4229

OCTOBER 2008



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Dillard Drive Middle School Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year! DDMS is off to a great start. We are very pleased that you and your child are a part of the Dillard Drive Middle School family. It is with great anticipation that I look forward to an outstanding school year. All of our Dragons and Dragonets are well into their routines and our teachers are providing the very best in instruction.

This year we will expand our Positive Behavior Support (PBS) program to ensure that all our students are clear about our expectations and standards of behavior. To that end, Dillard Drive Middle School has embraced the strategies involved in Positive Behavior Support to promote FIRE (Fairness, Integrity, Responsibility, and Excellence) in the total school environment. Enrichment Clusters will start soon. Our Clusters promote higher-level thinking, cooperation, and self-worth. Professional Learning Communities will continue to be a critical component of our school. Our teachers share a common mission and vision while working collaboratively to positively impact learning and teaching.

It takes all of us working together collectively to provide an environment of educational excellence for our students. There is no substitute for positive parent involvement in the education of our children. I personally offer you my pledge to maintain a quality program, a safe and pleasant environment and an open door through which I hope you will always feel invited to walk. I am committed to making every student's school experience here at Dillard a positive and productive one. Thank you for sending us your best. I look forward to an outstanding school year. Best wishes for a very successful school year!

Sincerely,  
*Teresa Abron*  
Principal

## DONATE NOW!!

### DRAGON FUND IN FULL SWING

By now everyone should have seen the Dragon Fund flier that was sent home last week. If not, it's not too late to DONATE! DDMS PTA has ONE fundraiser a year and THIS IS IT! The Dragon Fund Drive is the ONLY major fundraiser sponsored by the PTA. We are asking each family to make a tax-deductible contribution. Donate what you can...every dollar helps! (Don't forget to check if your employer will offer a matching grant.) Our Goal is \$15,000 raised: with a suggested donation of \$45 per family, we can achieve our goal!

Money raised will provide our students with additional educational opportunities and help support our great teachers. The funds will be used for Student Recognition, Technology, Student Social Functions, Newsletters, Academic Boosters, Teacher Grants, Staff Appreciation, School Wish List items, etc.

Collection dates are Monday - Friday, Sept. 22 through Oct 9. Donations will be collected in the concession stand, located by the gym, between 7:45am and 8:15am. Students will receive thank you prizes when they turn in their donation to the concession stand.. Make checks payable to DDMS PTA. Any questions, please contact Anna Ponte, [bjamdnnc@gmail.com](mailto:bjamdnnc@gmail.com).

#### PRIZES

- Any donation : coupon for 5 extra bonus pts. on a test/quiz & pencil
- \$45 - DDMS Water Bottle (plus above prizes)
- \$100 - DDMS Frisbee (plus above prizes)

#### CALENDAR

— OCTOBER —

- 10 TEACHER WORK DAY
- 13 PTA MEETING, 6:30pm  
Media Center
- 16 EARLY RELEASE,  
12:30pm
- 17 FALL DANCE
- 31 END OF QUARTER

— NOVEMBER —

- 03 TEACHER WORK DAY
- 04 TEACHER WORK DAY

### HOSPITALITY UPDATE

The Hospitality Committee started off the year with a 'Welcome Back Breakfast' for the staff on August 18th. The breakfast was made possible by the generous donations of many parents and from these local businesses: Starbucks Coffee (Crossroads), Brueggers Bagels, Harris Teeter (Tryon), Lowe's Foods and BJ's Wholesale. Thanks for your support!

Last week was Custodian Appreciation Week. We presented gift cards and goodies to them to show appreciation for all their hard work.

The annual Fall Staff Luncheon will be held on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you would like to help with this event, contribute homemade food items or if you would like to join us on the Hospitality committee, please contact Donna Wells (854-6154) or Betsy Campbell (362-3978) or email us at [ddms-hosp@bellsouth.net](mailto:ddms-hosp@bellsouth.net). Thank you!



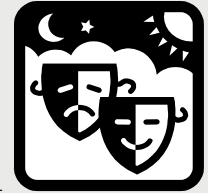
### NOTEWORTHY NOD

An article in the August 29th edition of the Raleigh News and Observer gave a nod to DDMS 8th Grade Eagles Social Studies teacher Mary Cummins, NBCT EA/SS. Mrs. Cummins was one of 24 North Carolina Public School teachers selected to attend a Holocaust Educators' trip sponsored by the N.C. Center for the Advancement of Teaching.

The group traveled to Germany and Poland and attended a seminar called: 'Becoming Witnesses: Primary Sites of the Holocaust.' For ten days they visited several concentration camps and museums to better their understanding of this tragic time in history. Mrs. Cummins is also currently teaching a Staff Development course for Wake County Teachers about the Holocaust.

To find the article, go to the News and Observer web site: [www.newsandobserver.com](http://www.newsandobserver.com) and search on Mary Cummins. The title of the article is "Milestones." Congratulations Mrs. Cummins!

## DRAGON DRAMA CLUB



The Dragon Drama Club was started in 2007 under the direction of Ms. Ahrens and Mr. Segool. The 2007-2008 Drama Club was limited to 6th graders, but the Drama Club will be expanding during the 2008-2009 school year to include multiple grade levels. Students will need to turn in an academic eligibility form filled out by their core teachers so we know they are academically responsible, and also a parent permission form, so we know their parents agree to the commitment.

The goal of Drama Club is to not only put on full scale performances for the school and surrounding community, but also to teach students the fundamentals of theater while enhancing valuable life skills such as effective communication, self expression, time management and displaying confidence. Ms. Ahrens and Mr. Segool look forward to future successful productions to follow in the footsteps of last year's "Big Bad" and "After Hours." If you have questions about Drama Club, please email Ms. Toni Ahrens at [tahrens@wcpss.net](mailto:tahrens@wcpss.net) or Mr. Darren Segool [dsegool@wcpss.net](mailto:dsegool@wcpss.net). Or Visit the Drama Club web page at <http://new.schoolnotes.com/xpages/view/3884>. For students that do not have their own transportation, an after school activity bus is available to take students home at 5:00p.m.

Auditions for our fall play will be after school until 5:00pm on September 29th for 6th graders and on the 30th for 7th and 8th graders. More information will be sent home to interested students. Rehearsals will be Wednesdays and Thursdays after school until 5:00pm, with performances on November 13th and 14th at 6:30pm. For more information or questions, please email Ms. Toni Ahrens at [tahrens@wcpss.net](mailto:tahrens@wcpss.net).



### PAINLESS FUNDRAISERS

General Mills **Box Tops** coupons earn 10 cents each and **Tyson Labels** earn 24 cents each for DDMS Programs. Start collecting today and give to your child's homeroom teacher! Teams are awarded prizes based on the amount collected. Help your school and the environment at the same time by donating your empty **printer/copier cartridges and used/old cell phones**. The orange drop bucket is in the Media Center. To learn more about these programs, go to the DDMS website and click on the PTA Announcements link and

followed by the

Painless Fundraisers link.



### DDMS WEB SITE AND E-GROUP

Want to be kept in the loop? Be sure to check out the DDMS website periodically for news and other important information about your child's school. Bookmark our website: <http://dillardrivems.wcpss.net>. Be sure to click on the Monthly Calendar and the Master Calendar links to stay up-to-date. Want your group or club's info on our site? Submit to Mary Barnack for approval: 854-1683 or [mbarnack@wcpss.net](mailto:mbarnack@wcpss.net).

Weekly updates on DDMS Events are sent directly to your email address when you sign up to be a part of our Yahoo Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DillardInfo>. To submit articles for the E-Group or this newsletter, email Maria Stone: [mstone1234@aol.com](mailto:mstone1234@aol.com).



The 2008-09 Athletic Passes are now on sale for \$40. This is a family pass that includes all DDMS home athletic events. See Mr. Jones for obtaining your pass or call 854-1611.



## PTA CORNER

### HELP WANTED:

A volunteer to help with the Reflections Art Program at DDMS. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! If you have any questions please contact **Lucy Shockley @ 363-5697** or [lshockley@nc.rr.com](mailto:lshockley@nc.rr.com).

### IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN

#### THE DDMS PTA:

Sometimes we get so caught up in our busy lives that we forget to do this or that....but don't worry....you can still join Dillard Middle's PTA! If you have the PTA membership envelope that was attached to the "Rainbow Packet" (which came home on the first day of school), simply fill it out, enclose the **\$6/per member fee (cash or a check made out to DDMS PTA)** and have your child give it to his/her homeroom teacher. If you don't have the "official" envelope, a regular one is fine....just make sure you include the **parent's name, address, phone number, email address and the student's name, grade and homeroom teacher**. Remember, it's \$6 per member.....so if both Mom & Dad join (which is great!), it will cost \$12.

Joining our PTA helps provide funds that are used for our children, their teachers and our school! Some examples are: cultural arts programs; honor roll recognition; school newsletter; technology; student directory; and grade level functions. PTA members have voting privileges at PTA meetings as well. Joining does not obligate you to provide any of your time (although volunteers are always welcome and appreciated!). All members will receive a coupon for a free Chick-Fil-A sandwich and a free Student Directory (when they are published)!

Questions?? Contact Suzanne Johnson (Membership Chair) at [Suzanne64@aol.com](mailto:Suzanne64@aol.com). **So join today and help support your child's school!**