

Arlene Randall, Principal

November 13, 2009



Betsy Shomaker  
PTA President

Office Hours: 7:30– 4:30  
Doors open at 7:30

Front Office: 703-442-5800  
Attendance: 703-442-5858

## Cooper Newsletter

November 25—All Fairfax County Schools close 2 hours early

### Important Dates

- November 16-20– Food Drive
- November 17-PTA meeting, 9:30 am, room 130
- **November 19-PICTURE RETAKES during lunches on stage in cafeteria**
- November 18-19-Play after school
- November 20-21- Play in evening, 7 pm
- November 25,-Two hour early release
- November 26-27- Thanksgiving Holidays
- December 3-Winter band concert, 7 pm, Cooper
- December 8-PTA Executive Board meeting
- December 10-Chorus concert, 7 pm, Cooper
- December 11-Interims mailed
- December 17 - Orchestra Concert, CMS, 7 pm
- December 23-2 hour early closing
- Winter Break-December 24– January 1
- January 18-Holiday
- January 19-22-FLE through PE classes.
- January 22-23-One Act Plays
- January 28-End of second quarter
- January 29 & February 5- Student Holidays/Teacher workdays.



### Notes from Principal Randall

#### THE COOPER MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

would like to invite you to our winter concert series. Following is a list of our concert dates and times. We hope you will be able to join us for the seasonal as well as non-seasonal music. Take a break and join us for a few evenings of great music.

**Band Concert**—December 3—7:00 PM—Cooper Middle School

**Choir Concert**—December 10—7:00 PM—Cooper Middle School

**Orchestra Concert**—December 17—7:00 PM—Cooper Middle School

**THANKS TO ALL** that donated to the SCA Coat Drive for Pine Spring Elementary School. Over 150 coats were donated, and they were very kindly accepted by Pine Spring.

#### SCA FOOD DRIVE: 11/16-11/21

Please bring donated items to your Block 1 teacher during

the week of November 16– November 21. SHARE, Inc. is requesting Cooper Middle School to collect the following items in addition to any canned food: diapers, baby wipes, paper towels, napkins, cleaners (like AJAX) and liquid cleaners (like 409). Block 1 classes with 100% participation will receive a donut party compliments of the SCA! “IF YOU CARE, PLEASE SHARE.”

#### STUDENT-PARENT SURVEY FOR FEDERAL IMPACT AID

Students need to return the Federal Impact Aid form which was handed out on November 4. Please fill this out and



return as soon as possible, if you have not done so already. **All forms must be turned in by November 16.**

#### COOPER'S FALL SHOW

Treasure Island, opens next week in the cafeteria. Treasure Island, based on the novel by Robert Louis Stevenson, is a swashbuckling pirate tale

about a boy who is searching for adventure on the high seas. It begins at an inn on the Devon coast of England in 1775 and quickly becomes an unforgettable tale of treachery and mayhem featuring a host of legendary swashbucklers including the dangerous Billy Bones, the sinister two-timing Israel Hands, the brassy woman pirate Anne Bonny, and the hideous form of evil incarnate, Blind Pew. At the center of it all are Jim Hawkins, a 14-year-old boy who longs for adventure, and the infamous Long John Silver, one of the most famous hero-villains of all time. Ken Ludwig recently won the 2009 AATE Distinguished Play Award for Best Adaptation for this play, and Cooper is pleased to be the first middle school in this area to stage this version. Tickets, which may be purchased at the door, are \$5 for children & students and \$8 for adults. Treasure Island will be presented Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> @ 2:30 pm, and Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00 pm.

### Notes from Student Services

#### UPCOMING FREE EVENTS

Thomas Jefferson Admissions Director, Ms. Judith Howard, will be speaking about changes to the admissions process this year on Nov. 17, at 7:30 at McLean High School

Summer Enrichment Camp Fair, Oakton High School cafeteria, January 12, 7–9 pm.

#### *Report Cards Mailed November 12, 2009*



Student Services Office  
703-442-5812

**Director of Student Services:** Michele Boak

**Tidal Waves & Fusion Counselor**—Tara Colgan

**Eclipse & Avalanche Counselor**—Tina Fisher

**Lightning & Tornadoes Counselor**—Lucy Skrabut

**Guidance Assistant**—Terri O'Banion

## NOTES FROM THE COOPER PTA

By now, all families should have received a copy of this year's school directory. The directory is easy to read, comprehensive, and accurate! **Many kudos** go to our wonderful Directory chairs, Elizabeth Trumbull and Jackie Cho, who have been working hard on this since the middle of the summer. Remember, the Directory is always available to you online through the Blackboard site, the which will be updated periodically to maintain accuracy throughout the year. **Thanks also** go to Betty-Jo Booth and her army of volunteers who helped with the health screening on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to her efforts, the students moved through the screening quickly and efficiently. **One final note**, please join us for the next PTA meeting on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. Our guest speaker is Cooper's own SRO, Officer Cooper, who will talk about "sex"ting. He has spoken to the kids through their health classes on this topic; now parents have an opportunity to hear about this all too common activity.



## FCPS BUDGET UPDATE

As many of you are aware, Fairfax County Public School is facing approximately a \$176 million dollars shortfall for their budget for FY2011. Needless to say, the school system is looking at many budget cuts. To be clear, nothing has been decided yet; no programs have been cut yet. But, conversations and considerations are currently underway. The County is taking into consideration the opinions of parents. Therefore, I encourage you to educate yourself on the possible cuts and contact your Board of Supervisors representative and our School Board Representative, Janie Strauss (jkstrauss@fcps.edu), with your concerns. A "strawman" (which lists the potential cuts currently being considered) has been presented by Superintendent Jack Dale for discussion purposes. The "strawman" can be viewed in its entirety at <http://tinyurl.com/October19Board-docs>. Among proposed cuts are:

- increase class size by 1 student per class across the board (and 3 per class at GT centers),
- elimination of elementary band/strings programs
- eliminate elementary school foreign language programs (FLES and Immersion)
- activity and athletic fees of \$100 per

sport/per student  
-test fees for AP/IB/SAT  
-reduction in administration and staff  
In addition, I will print out copies of the summary for our next PTA meeting on November, 17<sup>th</sup>. I encourage everyone to attend a Community Input Meeting on the Budget. The next meeting will be held on **Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the following locations:**

Kings Park Library, Sherwood Regional Library, George Mason Regional Library. Please look at the link below for a list of potential program reductions and or eliminations that may be considered as the FY 2011 budget is being developed.  
[http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011/PossibleBudgetCuts2011\\_November5revision.pdf](http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011/PossibleBudgetCuts2011_November5revision.pdf)

As more information becomes available, I will forward it on to you.

*Betsy Shomaker, PTA President*

**UPDATE:** FxCo. and FCPS will hold three additional Community Dialogue sessions to discuss the FY2011 budget on Wednesday, December 2. The sessions will run from 7 to 9 p.m. at three locations: Hayfield Secondary School, Herndon High School, and Lake Braddock Secondary School.

## *More News from Cooper*

### RENEW TODAY—GROCERY RECEIPTS PROGRAM

5 MINUTES TODAY GIVES COOPER \$\$\$\$\$ EVERY TIME YOU SHOP! See the link below to find out how to sign up.  
[http://www.fcps.edu/CooperMS/Assests/pfd%20files/Grocery\\_Receipts\\_Form1%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.fcps.edu/CooperMS/Assests/pfd%20files/Grocery_Receipts_Form1%20(2).pdf)

### SEND YOUR STUDENT a "shout-out" in the special holiday edition of the Hawkeye and help a good cause!

The advance journalism students are trying to raise money to throw a holiday party for the kindergarteners at our sister school, Pine Spring. You can help by purchasing a shout-out, a business ad, or donating a new toy. Forms are on Cooper's website site. **Forms are due November 16<sup>th</sup>! Please help**

### *us Spread the Spirit!*

#### BOX TOPS!!!!

We have had great participation; let's keep it up! Don't forget there are coupons in the drop box for you to take. Lots of great savings!

#### COOPER SHIRTS AND SWEATS

make great holiday gifts! It's not too late to order your Cooper Wear!!! You can go on line to order school sweatshirts, sweatpants, t-shirts and bags at [www.Pay4SchoolStuffOnline.com](http://www.Pay4SchoolStuffOnline.com) Click on Cooper Middle School, and you'll be walked through the site, step by step. Direct pick up from the front desk is an

option if it's a surprise! Share your school spirit!!!!

#### FROM THE FRONT OFFICE

***Instructional time will not be interrupted to inform students when an item is dropped off or to deliver messages.***

It is the student's responsibility to check for forgotten items and messages. Students are frequently reminded of this policy throughout the school year. As a courtesy, we will only deliver messages and items during lunch & QST.

## NEWS FROM THE EIGHTH GRADE

Last Thursday, November 5, the whole 8<sup>th</sup> grade went to the Newseum in Washington, D.C. Students got to explore the real life application of the constitutional discussions they have been having in Civics! The Newseum includes hands-on exhibits, artifacts, and videos dedicated to news and its many media outlets. Some exhibits that students found particularly meaningful were the Twin Tower structures (as part of the 911 exhibit), the panels of the Berlin Wall, and Woodstock. Students could even "be a reporter" and film a newscast! Some students took one of 2 classes: "You Can't Say that In School" looked at First Amend-

ment cases involving public school students and the Five Freedoms or "Media Ethics" focused on the guidelines journalists use to ensure ethical reporting. Our students enjoyed this fun, multimedia experience!

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE IDEAS FOR RISING 8TH GRADE STUDENTS

Do you need an idea for your community service project? Go to the following link to get ideas/projects for your community service.

<http://www.fcps.edu/CooperMS/Cooper%20Gives%20Back/coopergivesback.html>

#### LANGLEY CLEAN-UP DAY

The Langley HS Landscape Committee is hosting a special "Langley Campus Clean-up Day" on Saturday November 21 from 9am-12 noon. This will involve mulching, edging, hauling branches and light yard work that should not be too difficult for a middle school student. We would like to solicit volunteers from Cooper MS who need volunteer hours, because they would be incredibly helpful. This is also an ideal tie-in for those who may attend Langley very soon! Contact: Donna Kiffe at MDKiffe@aol.com

