

Arlene Randall, Principal

October 16, 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

EARLY COOPER CLOSING October 22

### Important Dates

- October 19-23-Coat Drive
- October 20-PTA meeting, 9:30, room 130
- October 22-SOL writing practice & **Cooper Early Closing** for Staff Development
- October 23-Men's Choir Festival
- October 26 –30, Red Ribbon Week
- October 29-Chorus Fall Concert, CMS, 7 pm
- October 30-End of first quarter/ Gathering Day
- November 2-3 Teachers' Workdays and Student Holidays
- November 4-Health Screening \*date change
- November 4-Second grading period begins
- November 5-Field trip for all 8th grade teams
- November 6-Field trip for all 7th grade teams
- November 10-PTA Executive Board Meeting, 9:30 am
- November 11-Entertainment Coffee and Walk About
- November 16-20– Food Drive
- November 17-PTA meeting, 9:30 am, room 130
- November 19-Picture retakes
- 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



### *Notes from Principal Randall*

*Cooper Parents Please join us on November 11 for an Entertainment Coffee and Walk About. Starting at 10:00 am in room 130 some of our students will be performing. Then we will have a brief question & answer session. From 10:45— 11:45 you will have an opportunity to visit classrooms. We welcome all parents and grandparents.*

#### EARLY CLOSING FOR COOPER

Cooper will be closing early on October 22 at 11:20. This gives our staff an opportunity to attend a technology seminar.

#### RED RIBBON WEEK AT COOPER IS OCTOBER 26 –OCTOBER 30

The original Red Ribbon Pledge was formed in April of 1985. This is a fun campaign to encourage young adults not to use alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Parents please take five minutes of your time to express clearly your stand on the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. And please look over the activities for the week and support the campaign here at Cooper.

**October 26:** There are more comfortable things to do than drugs! Wear your PJs's.

**October 27:** Drugs, alcohol and tobacco are bad! Dress "Fab"!

**October 28:** Drugs and alcohol make you wacky! Switch your style.

**October 29:** Color my world drug free. Color Day, 8th-Black, 7th –White, staff-red

**October 30:** Drugs are no treat! Activity-Costume contest, Gathering Time. Please go to the following link for a guide on **appropriate costumes.**

<http://www.fcps.edu/CooperMS/Assests/pfd%20files/COSTUME%20GUIDELINES%202009.pdf>

#### Forgotten items and messages for students.

Parents are welcome to bring forgotten items to the front office, however:

***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.

### *Notes from Student Services*

#### APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR TJHSST

Applications for Thomas Jefferson High School are now available in the Student Services office from Mrs. Skrabut, our counselor in charge of TJ applications. The initial application is a one page form which registers the applicant for the TJHSST admissions test in December. Applications are due to Mrs. Skrabut

no later than October 21 (no exceptions). The TJ admissions staff will hold an Open House on Saturday, October 10 at 8:30 to 11:30 at TJHSST. No reservation is required.

#### 8TH GRADE WRITING SOL

On October 22, all students will participate in the school-wide writing prompt as preparation for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade writing SOL. Students will be in

school for a half-day and should prepare by bringing pencils and a book to read.



## NOTES FROM THE COOPER PTA

### From Betsy Shomaker, PTA President

PTA NEWS—The PTA is very excited to announce the purchase of 10 Smart Boards for Cooper Middle School. Training to use the Smart Board has already been scheduled for this month. We would like to purchase even more Smart Boards, so please, if you have not had an opportunity to donate to the school fundraiser, it is not too late. If you have donated, we thank you so much for your generosity. Much thanks this week to the PTA Parent Network committee of Beth Eames, Jennifer Gillum, Janie Jackson, and Susan Dooley for hosting two fantastic Principal Coffees this month. And, much thanks to the hosting families, Consuelo and John Pluta and Sandy and Greg Potteiger for opening their homes to us for the Coffees. Thanks also goes to the Photo Day committee of Renee Bryson and Maureen Lalor and their many volunteers. It made for a smooth day of school photos. Finally, a very large THANK YOU to the wonderful custodial staff and cafeteria staff here at Cooper

Middle School. Our parents and students thank you for your tireless work and support of the school. You are a very important part of this school and we appreciate everything you do for our kids!!

### PTA MEETING REMINDER: OCTOBER 20, 9:30, ROOM 130

Our guest speakers at the meeting will be Diane Eckert and Denise Raybon from Fairfax County who will discuss the results of the most recent Fairfax County Youth Survey. The Survey, given every two years, asks questions regarding alcohol and drug use, sexual activity, gang violence, and other areas of concern to virtually all 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Fairfax County. This past year is the first time the results of the Survey have been broken down by school pyramid (i.e., Langley, Cooper, feeder elementary schools). The results for the McLean-Langley pyramid are encouraging in some areas and downright troubling in others.

### DESPERATELY SEEKING COACHES!!

Odyssey of the Mind is looking for a coach or coaches to guide students as they begin their quest to be the best of the best.

Odyssey of the Mind consists of building contraptions, painting props, writing scripts, making decisions, taking risks, and having fun....all without parental involvement! The emphasis on OM is the process not the product.

Students work approximately 1 1/2 hours per week in teams of 5-7 members to solve problems and evaluate ideas. Teams will presents and perform their solutions to the 2010 problems at the regional meet in March. Each team will select one problem to address. For more information, please go to the following link: <http://www.fcps.edu/CooperMS/Assests/pfd%20files/Desperately%20Seeking%20Coaches.pdf>

Please consider volunteering as a coach. Without coaches our children will not be able to participate in this wonderful and enriching experience. Please contact Debbie Bulford at [debra.bulford@fcps.edu](mailto:debra.bulford@fcps.edu) if you are able to coach.

## *More news from Cooper*

### CAFETERIA VOLUNTEERS

Join us for lunch... schedule is flexible! Your help is needed in the Cooper cafeteria daily, weekly, monthly or even once a semester for all 3 lunch periods or just 1! It is a great way to observe the Cooper social scene, mingle with administration and teachers and some say, curb your appetite. Please contact Kimberly Bolin at [triles2@aol.com](mailto:triles2@aol.com) for more information or to sign up.

### BOX TOPS!!!

Remember to clip those box top coupons!! Simply drop them off in the front office and in exchange take one of the many **money**

saving coupons!

### DON'T FORGET TO ORDER

**YOUR YEARBOOK:** Go to ; <http://www.fcps.edu/CooperMS/Assests/pfd%20files/Yearbook%20Form%202009-10.pdf>

### COAT DRIVE—OCTOBER 19-23

Don't forget our Coat Drive. Please help our sister school, Pine Spring Elementary, stay warm this winter by bringing in **new or nearly new, clean coats** for students in K-6th grade. The SCA will be collecting coats through Block 1 classes Monday, October 19 thru Friday, October 23. So

clean out those closets and help Pine Spring students stay warm this winter.



### 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>

### COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS AVAILABLE AT KENT GARDENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S FALL FUN FETE

Have fun while you earn community service hours at Kent Gardens Elementary

School's Fall Fun Fete on Saturday, November 7. We need your help! Fun Fete shifts are from 10:45 – 12:00, 11:45 – 1:00, and 12:45 – 2:00. Clean up will be from 2:00 – 4:00. Sign up for as many shifts as you like. To sign up, just follow this link to our Eventbrite site: <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/455472330>

You can sign up for the exact activity or game you prefer and the shift(s) that work best for you. If you aren't sure what a certain activity is, just click on **more info** next to activity name and you will get a full description. ALL VOLUNTEERS GET THREE FREE FOOD TICKETS!

\***Important Note Regarding**

**Eventbrite:** EventBrite.com is our new

volunteer sign up and tracking tool, which will prompt you to "purchase a ticket." There is in fact no purchasing to be done, but simply log on to sign up. Please only sign up for games or activities that include MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS as the type of volunteers needed. You will see this information by clicking on **more info** by the specific activity (which are called "ticket types" in Eventbrite). If you are able to help for multiple shifts, you must "purchase" a ticket for each shift or activity. If you have any questions, please contact Diana Kost at [dkost@cox.net](mailto:dkost@cox.net).