

Arlene Randall, Principal

SEPTEMBER 18, 2009



Mrs. Betsy Shomaker  
PTA President

## Cooper Newsletter

EARLY COOPER CLOSING October 22

### Important Dates

- September 21-Late buses begin
- September 24-Back to School Night for 8th grade parents, 7 pm
- September 28-Tryouts for Talent Show after school
- October 1-Thomas Jefferson informational meeting at Cooper after school in cafeteria
- October 5-Assemblies for 7th & 8th grade during school
- October 5-Talent Show rehearsal, after school
- October 7- Principal's Coffee, in McLean parent's home
- October 8-Fall Pictures
- October 10-Open House at Thomas Jefferson 8:30—11:30
- October 12-Columbus Day Holiday
- October 13-PTA Executive Board meeting
- October 14-Principal's coffee in Great Falls parent's home
- October 16-Talent Show, 7pm
- October 19-23-Coat Drive
- October 20-PTA meeting, 9:30, room 130
- October 22-Cooper Early Closing
- October 26-Health Screening
- October 30-End of first quarter



## A Message from Principal Randall

The new school year is filled with excitement and new challenges. When your students arrived on the first day everything was ready to go. The building was shining and the teachers were helping students navigate through their schedule. Your children are wonderful. It is exhilarating to watch them during the day. They are so eager to learn. It is our responsibility to maintain that eagerness as they become life long learners.

It was a very smooth opening once the students entered the building. As you are aware of, the bus schedules have been a bit challenging. Transportation is monitoring the schedules closely and will make the necessary adjustments. I will continue to update you on this situation.

Another issue I would like to address is the H1N1 virus. FCPS is suggesting steps that can help prevent the transmission of flu viruses:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. If hands are not visibly soiled, hand sanitizers containing at least 60 percent alcohol are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are sick with a flu-like illness, the CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone.(Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.) Keep away from others as much as possible to keep from making others sick.

Please review these preventative measures with your child.

There are many exciting things happening this year and I am looking forward to

working collaboratively with our KIDS.

Sincerely, Arlene Randall



*A very special thank you to our wonderful PTA for all the support and help in getting Cooper off to a great start. Special thanks to our PTA President, Betsy Shomaker, for being at Cooper almost everyday checking on our progress and to Holly Mostafa for opening her home and hosting our wonderful staff lunch.*

*Thank you, thank you to Terry O'Grady for the beautiful Cooper landscaping. We never looked so good!*

## Notes from Student Services

### Thomas Jefferson Information

Thomas Jefferson High School will hold its annual open house Saturday, Oct. 10, 2009, from 8:30 – 11:30 am. Additionally Judy Howard, director of student admissions at Thomas Jefferson, will be at Cooper to speak with interested students and parents and answer any questions that

they may have on October 1 at 3 pm in the Cooper cafeteria.

### "Parenting the Adolescent"

A six part class will be offered for parents of 6th, 7th, 8th & 9th graders in the McLean/Langley Pyramids starting Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at Longfellow Middle School from 7—9 pm. Class dates are Oc-

tober 6, 13, 20, 27, and November 3, & 10. To register, please call Estelle Brauer at 571-313-0116. A fee of \$75 includes the cost of the text, *Step Teen Parent Manual* and additional materials.



### **Notes from the Cooper PTA:** ***From Betsy Shomaker, PTA President:***

On behalf of the PTA, I want to welcome everyone to Cooper Middle School! As we start off the school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Julie Casso and Deborah Georgetti-Piro for all their work on our wonderful Back to School Fair; Terry O'Grady for ensuring that Cooper Middle School looked great for the Back to School Fair; Beth Stvan, Rebecca Ferrer, and Susan Gimbert for their help with the eighth grade community service folder stuffing, and Holly Mostafa for hosting a fabulous staff luncheon. To clarify a previous misunderstanding, the Directory will be printed in hard copy this year. A complimentary copy will be provided to every family joining the PTA. The Directory will also be available online through the Blackboard site.

### **Reflections Contest Sponsored by National PTA**

All Cooper Middle School students are invited to participate in the 2009-2010 Reflections Program sponsored by the PTA. The

National PTA Reflections Program is an arts recognition and achievement program for students. The Reflections Program provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by a pre-selected theme, while increasing community awareness on the importance of the arts in education. This year the theme for the contest is ***"Beauty Is..."*** Participation in the Reflections Program is a great way for students to explore and learn about various art forms. Creating art is a valuable learning process that challenges students to use their critical thinking skills as well as their creative talents to create art that supports a specific theme. Students may submit an entry in any of the six arts areas including literature, musical composition, photography, visual arts, dance choreography and film/video production. Only original works of art are accepted. Students may enter in as many categories as they would like and as many times within a category as they would like. ***Projects will be due Wednesday, October 14th.*** Cooper MS will select a winner in each category. Cooper's winners will move on to compete at the County level.

County winners will move on to state and state winners will move on to the national level. Let's keep the winning Cooper traditional going!! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the Reflections Co-Chairs: Debbie Volpicelli at [davolpi@cox.net](mailto:davolpi@cox.net); Daretia Carmichael at [daretia.d.carmichael@exxonmobil.com](mailto:daretia.d.carmichael@exxonmobil.com) or Rachna Malhotra at [rachnamalhot@gmail.com](mailto:rachnamalhot@gmail.com).

### **Volunteering at Cooper**

We are still in need of volunteers to help with the many activities at Cooper. Volunteer forms were sent home in the first day school packets. There will also be volunteer forms available at the Back to School Nights. If you can help us with any of our Cooper activities, please contact Beth Stvan at [stvanatva@juno.com](mailto:stvanatva@juno.com).

### **Principal's Coffees (Save these dates)**

Wednesday, October 7, 9:30 am in McLean at the home of Consuelo and John Pluta.  
Wednesday, October 14, 9:30 am in Great Falls at the home of Sandy and Greg Potteiger. *More info will follow regarding these coffees through KIT.*

### **Community Service Opportunity for 8th Graders:**

The McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) is looking for teen volunteers to assist with their annual outdoor arts festival. The MPA Artfest is Sunday, October 4 at the McLean Central Park from 10 am to 5 pm. Volunteer shifts (10 am-12:30 pm, 12:30-3:00 pm, and 3:00-5:00 pm) are available during the festival. Volunteer shifts are also available for set-up from 7:00-10:00 am and for breakdown/clean-up from 5:00-7:00 pm. For further information or to volunteer, please email Susan Mayman at [smayman@verizon.net](mailto:smayman@verizon.net).

### **BOX TOPS!!**

Save up to **\$26.65** this Month! Go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) click on coupons and print them out. Don't forget to clip the "box top" coupon from the product you purchase and turn it into the front office collection box.

### **Volunteers Needed to Help with the Cooper Middle School Directory**

Was your child's name listed incorrectly last year? Have you had challenges with the spelling of your child's name in elementary school directories? Do you have

great attention to detail? Are you a professional proofreader with not enough to do at work? Are you looking for a place to plug-in and get to know other parents at Cooper? **WE NEED YOU!!!** We need help proof-reading the directory data, directory formatting and layout, and directory sorting, labeling, and distribution. This is a very short term volunteer opportunity. Everything will be complete by the middle of October. If you have some time and would like to help out, please email your name, email address, and telephone number to one of the co-chairs: Elizabeth Trumbull: [elizabeth.trumbull@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.trumbull@gmail.com), 703-927-5635 Jackie Cho: [jacquelyn-](mailto:jacquelyn-)

## **More news from Cooper**

### **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>

### **Cooper's Annual Talent Show:**

Singers, Dancers, Comedians, Jugglers, Musicians, and other talented people wanted for Cooper's Annual Talent Show. Tryouts will be on September 28, after school. The performance will be on Friday, October 16, 7 pm.

Volunteers needed! Please contact Thelma Allcock at [Thelmaanded@verizon.net](mailto:Thelmaanded@verizon.net) if interested in helping.

### **Do you want your child to be in the yearbook? Here is your chance!**

We are looking for pictures of any summer, weekend, sports, or social activities of your child outside of school. Candid photos are preferred, but any picture has a shot of making the yearbook! Pictures should be in jpeg format and emailed to [cooperyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:cooperyearbook@gmail.com). Please include your stu-

dent's first and last name, grade, what is going on in the picture, and the name of any other Cooper student in the photo. Thank you!

### **Don't forget to order your yearbook:**

Go to: <http://www.fcps.edu/CooperMS/Assests/pfd%20files/Yearbook%20Form%2009-10.pdf>

### **2009-10 School Year Calendars Available**

The calendars for the 2009-10 school year have been posted and are available online at <http://www.fcps.edu/cal.htm>