

Herndon Middle School

October/November 2009

Issue 1

Upcoming Events....

October 28th & 29th – Drama Production (details on pg. 3)

October 30th – End of First Quarter

November 2nd & 3rd – Teacher Workdays....Student Holidays!

November 4th – 7th Grade Drama Field Trip to the Kennedy Center

November 6th – Report Cards distributed to students

November 6th – International Night, 7:00 p.m.

November 9th & 10th – 8th Grade Field Trip to DC (see details on pg.4)

November 11th – 2 Hour Early Closing

November 12th – Parent Coffee with Principal, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

November 16th – PTA Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Library

November 16th – 23rd – NJHS Food Drive

November 19th – HMS Thanksgiving Meal

November 23rd – Eagles Field Trip to the National Geography Museum

A Message from Mrs. Klena

Dear Herndon Middle School Families:

As we approach the end of the first quarter I am pleased to have this opportunity to provide updates and information about the school year so far. We have challenges due to absences as a result of the flu and we have concerns due to the continuing budget problems. Even so, our year is progressing well. The students are cheerful and engaged in learning. Our teachers are working collaboratively and designing creative lessons together to help all students succeed. The administrators are focused on ensuring the teachers have what they need to work with all the students and learn from each other about new strategies, technology and best practices in teaching and learning. Our counselors are rescheduling students so that those who need extra help have additional opportunities with teachers in PowerTime.

There are some changes underway at HMS. Of course for half of our families and students, everything is new as a seventh grader and what we think of as changes are just more adjustments. Indeed, Middle School is a time of constant transition.

One new initiative is our *Soaring Hawks* newsletter. We plan to highlight the good things going on at Herndon Middle. Mr. James Torrenzano, one of our art teachers will collect information and create the publication. I am excited to have a new way to celebrate the wonderful things our students and teachers accomplish on a regular basis. The first issue will be published on November 13th and posted via KIT and the website.

Speaking of wonderful things, I am thrilled to see so many classrooms equipped with Smartboards and Mimios. I plan to use funds from the magazine drive to provide teachers with more interactive tools such as the Turning Points equipment. Thank you to the families who have contributed through the PTA and the school. Your efforts and donations help our teachers and students stay current and excited about learning.

On October 16th teachers, counselors, administrators and PTA members came together to develop strategies to ensure we implement the 2009-10 objectives for the school plan. We have three new objectives to ensure our school program is focused on achievement for every student and Herndon Middle Schools continues to strive to be an excellent school for every child and every family. The three objectives are:

- **Teachers will actively engage, challenge and motivate students.**
- **Teachers and staff will build collaborative and respectful relationships with students, colleagues, and parents.**
- **Teachers and staff will guide service learning projects for students.**

Included in this newsletter are important dates and items from different clubs and organizations in the school and PTA. I am committed to making our communication from HMS timely, efficient and helpful. We are working towards this goal continuously and your helpful feedback is appreciated. Send your suggestions to me at Justine.Klena@fcps.edu and you are always welcome at our PTA meetings (third Monday of each month at 7:15 p.m. and parent Coffees. Our next Parent Coffee is scheduled for November 12th at 9:00 a.m.

Thank you for your support and entrusting your student to our care. Together we can make our goals a reality.

Justine Klena, Principal

Herndon Middle School

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Upcoming Events... (Cont.)

November 25th – 2 Hour Early Closing

November 26th & 27th – Thanksgiving Holidays

December 1st – 8th Grade Honor Roll, 9:00 a.m. in the Auditorium

December 2nd – 7th Grade Honor Roll 9:00 a.m. in the Auditorium

December 11th – 2nd Quarter Interims distributed to students

December 9th – Band Concert, 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium (Snow Date: December 10th)

December 16th – Chorus Concert, 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium (Snow Date: Dec. 17th)

December 18th – SCA Spirit Day

A Message from your PTA President

One of the goals of the PTA this year is to help Build Community in and around HMS. We have been busy supporting the HMS staff, students and families through a variety of programs and events. Our Hospitality team held a Staff & Teacher Luncheon the week before school started and is gearing up for the Bus Driver Appreciation Breakfast. We brought the Reflections Program back to HMS this year so please encourage your students to enter their projects in this great program. The theme this year is "Beauty Is..." and should make for many interesting artistic interpretations. [Click here](#) for the Reflections entry form or go to www.hmspta.com/links.html. The deadline for entry is Thursday, October 22.

The PTA sponsored a family dine out event at Generous George's Pizza last week. We had a good crowd and the families and students enjoyed great food and fun socializing. We will plan a few more of these Dine Out events throughout the school year as we continue to bring families together and build community within the school.

The HMS PTA website has been overhauled and our goal is to help families stay informed with updated communication and access to pertinent information and links. The PTA is currently holding the Direct Donation Campaign and the response has been good. Thank you to everyone who has contributed. We introduced online donations this year so families can easily make contributions with a credit card or Paypal account. If you have not done so already, you can [click here](#) to make a contribution.

The Student Directories will be ready for distribution soon. If you would like to pre-order 1 or more Directories, then please contact Terri Phillips at terphillips@verizon.net.

The PTA holds monthly meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month @ 7:15PM in the school library. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved with the PTA and at the school, so please contact our volunteer coordinator Trish Heiman at heiman2@verizon.net or go to www.hmspta.com/volunteer.html and fill out our online volunteer form.

Thanks for all of your support!

Karen Joseph
HMS PTA President

Guidance Department

Over the holiday season; November, December, and January, a lot happens in and outside the school. Because of this, I thought I would list some things to help if you have a question.

1. Keep your contact information up to date. If a phone number, addresses, or email changes, call Ms. Santizo at 703.904.4900.
2. If your child is staying home, please call the attendance line at 703.904.4848
3. Students sometimes struggle to keep up with assignments during the second quarter, probably due to the number of holidays. Blackboard should be a valuable source of information regarding classes; however, if you need to contact a teacher directly, email is an effective way. Counselors are another resource that you should consider. The guidance phone number is 703.904.4900.
4. Report cards and interim reports come out during this time also. The first quarter ends on October 30th and report cards will go home in backpacks on Nov. 6th. Second quarter interim reports go home Dec. 11th, and the second quarter report card is mailed on February 5th.
5. This year, teachers are sending progress reports home prior to the end of the marking periods. In order to send these reports, we need a current email address. Call Ms. Levy, at 703.904.4904 to update your email.
6. Cold weather brings icy conditions; please plan your mornings so your child is at school safely, and on time. Students are allowed inside the building at 7:35am.
7. Cafeteria... The school system allows parents to add money to lunch accounts through an on-line site. Go to the following site for information http://www.fcps.edu/fs/food/food_at_school/
8. Breakfast... The school has a breakfast program that runs from 7:35am until 7:48am. By having your child here by 7:35 they can enjoy milk, juice, breakfast bars, bagels, or sweet rolls before class.



Drama Productions

The drama club will be presenting two Halloween plays each night. They are “The Halloween Ball (or Cinderella with a Ghoulish Twist) and “A Halloween Sleeping Beauty.” The plays are free of charge, and everyone is invited. Show time is 7:00 p.m. each night. Come join us to see a wonderful collection of witches, bats, and Halloween royalty perform.

After School Program

The after-school programs have been a huge success so far this year and we've had over 500 students stay after-school at least once during the first quarter. Students look forward to participating after-school in the club of their choice and we have over 25 different clubs or activities students can choose from. Students involved in the after-school programs are required to spend at least one late-bus day per week working on academics if they received an incomplete, D or F on their interim. Our Peer-to-Peer tutoring program has not been well attended by students needing extra help, although we have tutors from Herndon High School and the National Junior Honor Society at HMS ready to help. Parents please encourage your child who may need extra help to stay after-school for tutoring on Thursdays in the Library. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our after-school programs please contact Coach Thomas at 703-904-4819 or email him at cthomas3@fcps.edu.

HMS Band News



The HMS “Spirit of Herndon” band program has over 150 students participating in 5 band classes and 2 after school bands, Jazz Band and Marching Band. The HMS Marching Band is the only official middle school marching band in Fairfax County. This year, 85 HMS Marching Band members participated in the annual Herndon Homecoming Parade on October 3, 2009. In addition, our band members performed with the HHS Marching Band at the football game that day. The students looked great and sounded wonderful as they performed the “The Star Spangled Banner” and the HHS Fight Song on the field and in the football stands. Upcoming events for the band students include the Ice Cream Social and jazz band tryouts. Plan to join us this year at one of the upcoming band concerts, all are welcome and encouraged to attend.

8th Grade Civics Field Trip

The 8th grade Civics classes are excited about their upcoming Fall trip to Washington, D.C. on November 9 and 10. Students will leave early in the morning and explore the length of the Washington Mall, returning at 6 p.m.

Sites to be visited include the new Capitol Visitor Center, the U.S. Supreme Court, the National Archives, and the recently reopened Smithsonian Museum of American History and view a new “Ocean” IMAX in the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. Some spaces are still available for chaperones. Hurry! Contact your child’s 8th grade Civics teacher and sign up.

Parenting During Tough Economic Times*

Brought to you by your school social worker,
Rachel Cherian, LCSW
703-904-4868
Rachel.Cherian@fcps.edu

How can you parent well when times are tough? Strapped for time but your kids still need your attention? Here are some tips:

Limit kids’ exposure to worries. Try not to talk too much about your own fears when the kids are listening. You may think your youngster tunes out adult topics, but he or she may hear just enough to spark anxiety.

Share honestly but appropriately. Secrets can be scary. You don’t want to overwhelm your child with information, but it’s probably best to share some of your family’s financial situation. Take a reassuring approach by pointing out any areas you know are stable, such as staying in the same school despite any other changes.

Economize in a way that’s clear and fair. If you need to scale back on your children’s after-school activities, letting them pick from a few options may decrease their disappointment. You might also consider less-expensive options at local community centers and libraries too. And don’t forget to show kids that you’re cutting back on some of your own “extras” as well.

Keep predictability high. Kids like routine. Make sure your child’s routine includes exercise to burn off energy, soothing nighttime activities, and, above all, some special time with you. Children crave attention, and if they’re not getting it in positive ways, they may get it by acting out.

*Adapted from Mental Health America

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HMS PTA

The **Herndon Middle School PTA** would like to thank the following 89 parents and 37 staff members for joining the PTA as of October 14, 2009. If you have not already joined, please consider joining. We need your support!

Your \$10 membership fee (staff \$5) will help fund the following:

- ◆ Learning Enrichment including field trips, assemblies, staff development,
- ◆ PTA Dues/Expenses including newsletters, parent education, National and State PTA dues
- ◆ PTA Programs including Reflections, 8th Grade Recognition, Landscaping, Hospitality, Student Directory.

Membership forms are available online at http://www.hmspta.com/f/Membership_Flyer_2009-10.pdf

HMS PTA Parent Members for 2009-2010 School Year

Agyeman, Juliet	Gibbons, Julie	Nixon, John and Susan
Arana, Edwing	Golomb, Kristen and Jason	Nyren, Courtney
Bailey, Mary Kay	Gomez, Luz	O'Brien, Gabriele
Beres, Tom	Hampton, Janis	Olaya, Patricia
Binks, John	Haynes, Todd and Judy	Rodrigues, Urania
Blystone, Randy and Kathy	Izurieta, Sonia	Rautenbach, Cicero and Mariana
Bommer, Dan	Johnson, Chris and Nan	Ray, Rosario Del Carmen
Bryan, Lisa	Johnson, Jessica	Ricks, Jerri
Butterfield, Nancy	Jones, Melvin and Kimberly	Rider, Buzz and Kara
Clayton, Irene	Joseph, Karen	Ryan, Sandra
Cleveland, James and Suzanne	Kasulis, Linda	Schmitt, Alicia
Coley, Mike and Amy	Key, Kelly	Schnarrs, Jeanne-Renee
Coyner, Sandy	Knox, John and Karen	Scott, Brigitta
Cumbie, Susie	Koss, Joan	Seng, Vorinda
Daines, Brenda	Krauser, Glenn and Beth	Short, Tammy
DeGeneste, Henry and Marie	LaRosa, Dannielle	Showalter, Allyson
Dobbs, Miyoun	Leary, Colleen	Shuford, Kirsten
Dubler, Jayne	Llorens, Marcia	Spohn, Jill
Duke, Monique	Logan, Anne	Urban, Dee Dee
Dunbar, Teresa	McClellan, Stephanie	Vent, Geraldine
Eastham, Debra	McKee, Tanya	Wilson, John and Jennifer
Faieq, Abdul	MacMurdy, Laura	Wingard, Paula
Farzad, Zohreh	Mason, Heather	Wood, Stephanie
Fausett, Mark and Janet	Meyers, Alan and Laurie	Woycke, Daniel and Cynthia
Funke, Carol Jaskula	Montandon, Rick and Stacy	Zardeskas, Elizabeth

HMS PTA Staff Members for 2009-2010 School Year

Alsop, Joan	Grayson, Jeff	Oxford, Chris
Andrews, Connie	Heron, Belita	Paine, Rob
Aronson, Kathleen	Hidalgo, Paulina	Passino, Tom
Bonneau, Sharon	Itzkoff, Kathy	Pierce, Stuart
Carlson, Mary	Jacobus, Lynda	Pryplesh, Christine
Case, Bryan	Kelleher, Caroline	Schwab, Sindy
Christopherson, Karen	Killian, Janice	Strassburger, Carol
Cooke, Theresa	Klena, Justine	Tempel, Jo
Darr, Rachel	Kmetz, Leah	Troxell, Christine
Fram, Carol	McDonald, Karen	Waggoner, Lenore
Gawinski, Bette	McKoy, Tracey	Williams, Barbara
Glazier, Tracy	Mehrer, Maureen	
Gralton, James	Moore, Karen	

Save Money! Order Early!!

2009-2010 HMS Yearbook

(we sold out of books last year)

Before Nov. 1: \$30

Nov. 1 – Jan. 1: \$35

Jan. 1-delivery: \$40

Parents!! Students!! Help Us Out!

We need you to send in pictures of HMS students playing sports, doing family activities, having fun on school breaks, participating in Herndon events or spending time with their friends. Make sure to include information about the pictures!! E-mail them to hmsyearbook10@gmail.com

Order online – HMS Website

Bring Cash or Check to the Front Office

2009-2010 Herndon Middle School Yearbook

Cost for the 2009-2010 Yearbook is currently \$30 (Until Nov. 1)

Get your name stamped on the front for an additional \$4.00

Please fill out the information below to ensure we can keep track of your information:

- Check ___ Cash ___ Amount _____

- Student's Legal Name

- Name Stamp Y __ N __ Name to have Stamped

- Student's 3rd Period Teacher (during 2nd semester; for delivery purposes)

- Telephone Number:

Please make your check payable to Herndon Middle School. Memo-- *Yearbook* on your check.

Please turn all orders into the front office in a **sealed envelope**.