

Holmes Middle School

Office of School Counseling Newsletter

From Mr. C's Desk



Believe it or not, we have officially passed the halfway mark of the school year! Time does fly. As I look at the upcoming weeks and months, we certainly will be busy. The start of the second semester always coincides with our annual curriculum nights, the beginning of the registration process for next school year, and the 8th Grade Writing SOL.

Parents, please mark on your calendars Thursday, February 26 from 7 - 8 pm. We will be holding our annual Rising

7th and 8th Grade Curriculum Night. This will be an excellent opportunity to gain some background knowledge about the classes your child will be taking next school year. Teachers will be present that evening to provide a brief overview of the curriculum and to answer any questions that you may have.

8th grade parents, please remember that your students will be taking the Writing SOL during the 1st week of March. I will be sending home a separate letter reminding you about this most important assessment. It is imperative that students come to school rested and on time so they can perform their best. Thank you!

- Dave Czarnecki

A Special Thank You To The Insiders!

Holmes would like to thank the Insiders for their sizeable food and monetary donation that was shared with some of our neediest families during the holiday season.

Holmes is fortunate enough to have a great business partnership with this unique organization that brings together a variety of businesses and services from the community.

Donations are always appreciated and truly make a difference to the lives of those in need. If you would like more information about Insiders, please refer to the complete listing of all participating vendors and organizations found at the end of this newsletter.

Staff

David Czarnecki
Director
703-658-5940

Vianmarie Milan
Secretary
703-658-5940

Yolma Torres
6th Grade
703-658-5943

Malvolia Gregory
7th Grade
703-658-5942

Carrie Schaefer
8th Grade
703-658-5941

“Press on- nothing can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Perseverance and determination alone are omnipotent..”

Calvin Coolidge



George Mason Academic Scholarship

Holmes is once again pleased to announce the George Mason University scholarship opportunity for all current 8th graders. The four-year in-state tuition scholarship recognizes a student who has demonstrated the potential to be successful in a four-year college program. Recipients must maintain the required academic and personal department standards through high school and meet the eligibility requirements for acceptance at George Mason University.

The scholarship recipient must:

- Demonstrate potential to be successful in a four-year college program through good school attendance, work habits, and school behaviors.
- Earn no more than two C+s for the 1st three quarters in 8th grade.
- Maintain a minimum of a 3.5 GPA in high school.
- Select and complete appropriate college preparatory courses to meet GMU admission standards.
- Earn the required scores on college entrance exams.
- Display and retain good deportment at school and in the community.
- Serve as a role model for Holmes students. This includes visiting and sharing with Holmes students periodically through out the scholarship recipient's high school career.



- Compliance with FCPS Student Rights and Responsibilities.

The application process will begin in early March. Finalists will be interviewed individually by representatives from George Mason University who will make the final selection. The recipient of the scholarship will be identified in June as part of an assembly at HMS. Connections will be maintained with George Mason University and HMS throughout the high school years to assure continued compliance with the standards of the scholarship.

For more information regarding this 8th grade scholarship opportunity, please contact school counselor, Carrie Schaefer, at 703-658-5941 or Carrie.Schaefer@fcps.edu.

Annandale HS Registration

In late January, counselors from Annandale High School came over to Holmes to provide an overview of the high school registration process. Ms. Schaefer is currently going into the classrooms to help the rising 9th graders complete the process. All registration sheets must be completed, signed, and returned to Ms. Schaefer by Friday, February 20th.

National School Counseling Week February 2-6

School counselors help students to understand themselves, to

make the best of their abilities, to know the educational and career opportunities available to them, and to make plans and decisions for their future. School counselors meet with students individually and in groups. School counselors also meet with teachers and parents to discuss achievement or any issue related to the student's school experiences.

Holmes is fortunate to have dedicated and professional school counselors who provide an array of services to students, parents, and teachers. Holmes school counselors provide the leadership for many school-wide programs including: standardized testing, career guidance, elementary tutoring, minority achievement, middle school transition, course selection, Parenting Classes, College Partnership Program, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology Admissions, and honor roll recognition. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's counselor if there are any questions or concerns regarding academic, social, or emotional development.

To become a school counselor, individuals must earn a Master's Degree in school counseling and be endorsed in school counseling by the State of Virginia. This week is a time to reflect on the unique contributions that school counselors provide to schools and students.

From the Clinic

Parents, remember when medication must be administered during the school day, please follow

the guidelines established in the current version of FCPS Regulation 2102:

1. Complete the FCPS Medication Authorization forms (available online at www.fcps.edu).
2. Provide the school with properly labeled containers (your pharmacist will usually provide an extra container if you request it).
3. Per FCPS regulations, students may not carry medications – to include bringing to and from the clinic.
4. Medications must be kept in the school clinic or other school-approved location.
5. OTC medications may be given up to ten consecutive school days with the parent's or guardian's signature on the FCPS Medication Authorization form. After the 10 days, a physician's authorization is required, even for an OTC.
6. OTC medications that are pain relievers may be given as needed throughout the school year with only the parent's or guardian's signature on part I of the FCPS Medication Authorization form.

The Medication Authorization form must include the dosage in milligrams (mgs.) – E.g. Tylenol 325 mgs, 1-2 caps. This is to prevent mistakes such as Tylenol Regular Strength being listed on the form, and Tylenol Extra Strength (500mgs) are sent in. The dosages must match. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance. Please call with any questions at 703-658-10.



Insiders

For over 12 years, Holmes Middle School has had a working relationship with a group of local businesses called the Insiders. The Insiders meet biweekly to share leads and to network. Members from this group have been mentors to some of our students, given presentations at Holmes, and have donated supplies and financial support to our school. In return, Holmes assists them in anyway we can. Please support these businesses whenever possible. Some of the listed businesses offer discounts to Holmes' staff members and parents. Thank you.

Air Conditioning & Heating

Chuck Moran
Moran's Refrigeration Service, Inc
703-642-1200
Chuckm45@aol.com

Computer Services

Bob Havey
D2D Computer Services
703-569-8195
havey@dtwod.com
www.dtwod.com

Home Improvements

Edward Cassidy LLC
Fisheye069@aol.com
703-280-1138

Insurance

Health/Long Term Care/
Disability Life
Bernie Cohen
Insurance Solutions
703-933-9111

Investments & Financial Planning

Carol Goldstone &
Eric Goodson
Citigroup, Smith Barney
703-739-3680 or 703-739-3684
Carol.t.goldstone@smithbarney.com
Eric.v.goodson@smithbarney.com

MERCHANT SERVICES

Gloria & David Jones
Central Payment Corporation
703-221-6058
Gloriajones61@yahoo.com

Mortgages

Dan Clark
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
800-385-8671 x 5583
Daniel.clark@wellsfargo.com
www.wfhm.com/dan-clark1

Nutrition and Weight Loss

Jay Doumaux
Independent Herbalife
Distributor
703.250.0260
praesepel2@yahoo.com
www.jdxnutrition.com

Printing

Charley Kramer
Minuteman Press
703-440-0642
ckramer@minutemanpress.com
springfieldva.minutemanpress.com

REAL ESTATE SALES

June La Marca
Re/Max Allegiance
703.250.8500
jlamarca@erols.com
www.junelamarca.com

Reverse Mortgages

Larry Tate
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
703-333-5575
Larry.tate@wellsfargo.com
www.wfhm.com/larry-tate

Taxes & Payroll

Charney Weber, CPA
703-922-5882
www.nationalpayrollcorp.com

Video Production Services

Abby M. Sternberg
Media Masters, Inc.
703-503-5924 or 703-978-2198
abby@mediamasters.tv
www.mediamastrs.tv

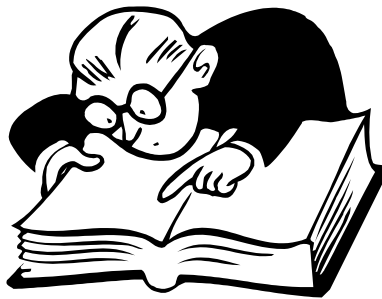
March

- 3 SOL Testing
- 4 SOL Testing
Band Concert – 7:30 p.m. - Cafeteria
- 5 SOL Testing
Police VS HMS Faculty Basketball Game – 6:30 p.m. – Gymnasium
- 26 HMS Musical – *Beauty & the Beast* – 7:30 p.m. - Cafeteria
- 27 HMS Musical – *Beauty & the Beast* – 7:30 p.m. - Cafeteria
- 28 HMS Musical – *Beauty & the Beast* – 7:30 p.m. – Cafeteria

**April**

- 1 Early Closing for Articulation, 11:40 a.m.
- 2 3rd Quarter Ends
- 3 Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
- 6-10 Spring Break – Schools are Closed
- 17 Hispanic Parent Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Lecture Hall
- 22 Special Ed Dept. Potluck – 6:30 p.m. – Cafeteria
- 23 National Take Your Child to Work Day
- 23-25 Music Trip to Williamsburg, VA

**Holmes Middle School
Presents
CURRICULUM NIGHT
FOR
PARENTS OF RISING
7th & 8th GRADERS**



When: ***Thursday, February 26, 2009***

Where: ***Holmes Middle School Lecture Hall***

Time: ***7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.***

Agenda: ***Overview of the Scheduling Process***
Brief Review of the Curriculum

Are You in the Yearbook?

Preorder your 2009 Holmes Yearbook NOW!

Get one before they're gone . . .

WHERE: Ms. Boyce's Room (B-13)

COST: Only \$32.00 - Checks Made Payable to Holmes Middle School

Yearbook Order Form

Student's Full Name _____ Date _____

Grade/Team _____ Method of Payment (Circle One): Cash Check

How Many? _____ Amount Paid _____

Give to Ms. Boyce in Room B-13