



NEW KENT MIDDLE SCHOOL  
 P.O. BOX 190 \* 7501 EGYPT ROAD  
 NEW KENT, VA 23124  
 PHONE 804-966-9655 \* FAX 804-966-2703

Dec/Jan. 2009

Issue 1, Vol. 2

# The Lion Link

The Official Newsletter of New Kent Middle School

## What's Truly Important

### Inside this issue:

Counselor's Corner	2
	3
PTO Happenings	4
Remediation Q & A	5
SCA and BETA	5
Preventing Drug Use & Library News	7
Events in Nov./ Dec.	8

### Special points of interest:

- Please join the PTO if you have not done so. The cost is \$3.00 and may be sent to the Main Office by your child.
- Please sign your child's report card sent home Nov. 17 and send it back to school ASAP.
- Perfect SOL Assembly Nov. 25, 8:30 a.m.

The holiday season is already upon us. We are well into our first semester here at WGMS and the school year seems to be rushing by. Perhaps this is a time that we need to stop, take a deep breath and look at how the year is progressing.

We are full of optimism here at the middle school. We talk about preparing our students for the future. We know that if we are to continue to meet the needs of our students, we must build on our strengths, correct our weaknesses and become more productive. We need everyone's support to achieve these goals, especially our students and parents. Another spoke the following words, but they convey a message that is very appropriate.

**To Our Students:** Our expectations for you are high. Whether in the classroom, on the field, or on stage, we want to push you to do the best you can. If you have a desire to learn and put forth your best effort, you will be successful. While school is your job now, you will find that your career success always will be dependent on your performance. Today you get a grade or an SOL score; tomorrow it is a promotion, a raise, or the exhilaration of having done your work well. Your behavior and respect for

others should be a given! When employers call and ask for a reference, they do not ask about "grade point average". Their first two questions are about attendance and behavior. Employers want bright and skilled colleagues; however, they first want people who are dependable and who get along well with others. Your school is a place where you come to be educated and where you can feel a sense of pride because of your accomplishments.

**To Parents:** There is nothing that replaces time spent with your children. We are asking that you take time each day with your young people, supporting and reinforcing their work at school. It requires commitment; and yet it makes so much common sense. We must model the behavior we expect from our young people. If parents and educators work together in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect, there is nothing we can't accomplish on behalf of our students. Some of the decisions parents have to make are tough, but open communication and trust carry us through the difficult issues and make our young people stronger.

Finally, I want to thank all of you who have so enthusiastically

cally volunteered your time and support on behalf of the students here at WGMS. Let's keep our hopes and expectations high as we work together to take Walker-Grant Middle School to places we have not yet imagined! Best wishes to you and your families as we enter this first holiday season of the new millennium.

**Bruce A. Cook, Principal**

**Let's keep our hopes and expectations high as we work together to take WGMS to places we have not yet imagined!**

*"It is wonderful how much may be done if we are always doing."*  
 ~Thomas Jefferson



# Counselor's Corner

## Parental Involvement Pledge

As a Parent, I pledge to

- Show my child that I value education;
- Encourage my child to be a reader;
- Talk to my child about his/her schoolwork;
- Visit the School;
- Meet the teachers;
- Learn what the school is doing for my child, and
- Learn how I can take part.

I pledge to get involved and stay involved, for education is the key to success, and is the greatest gift I can give my child.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Post this on your refrigerator, or in some other prominent place in your home, so you and your child can refer to it often.



# New Team Names



## 2009-2010 New Kent Middle School Team Names:

### Sixth Grade

The Magic - Mr. Fraser, Ms. McAlpin, Mr. Otey, Ms. Hall, Ms. Burgess

The Monarchs—Ms. Folkes, Ms. Day, Ms. Honeycutt, Ms. Horne, Ms. Hall, Ms. Burgess

The Pride—Ms. Hathaway, Ms. Moyer, Ms. Bennett

### Seventh Grade

The Gryphons—Ms. Mallory, Ms. McCracken, Mr. Dull, Ms. Downing, Ms. Taylor, Ms. A. Otey

The Pirates—Ms. Hodges, Ms. Burcham, Ms. Rubin, Ms. Grimm, Ms. Luton, Ms. Fields, Ms. Brady

The Titans—Ms. Porecca, Ms. Miller

### Eighth Grade

The Trailblazers—Ms. Bartholomew, Mr. Holloway, Ms. Wayman, Ms. Sampson, Ms. Hatch, Ms. Parkin

The Superstars— Ms. Branciforti, Ms. Edwards, Mr. Johnson, Ms. McClung, Ms. Parkin, Ms. Hatch, Ms. Luton, Ms. Fowler-Jones

### Electives:

Encore Team- Ms. Archer, Ms. Hammond, Ms. Acors, Mr. Altier, Ms. Cook and Ms. Whitman, Mr. Eastman, Ms. Gregory

### Physical Education:

No Pain No Gain— Mr. Burke, Mr. Aliff, Ms. Lane, and Ms. Weaver

\* Occasionally, students may be “cross-teamed” due to scheduling difficulties, etc...

## BIG CITY LIGHTS, HOLLY BALL NIGHTS

2009 Middle School Holly Ball

December 4th—NKMS Cafeteria

6th grade—2:45 to 5:00 p.m.

7th & 8th grade— 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Parents, if you would like to help the PTO for this event, or to be involved, please contact  
Ginger Hayes 804-514-4314



## New Kent Middle School Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)

*“Education is the key to the future. However, education takes commitment. Not just on the part of the student, teachers and faculty, but on the part of parents as well.”*

The Parent-Teachers Organization (PTO) is a group that provides parents the opportunity to have more school involvement, to provide support and to have a voice in their child's education. This year at NKMS we are hoping to have an overwhelming number of parents involved in their child's educational experience. **Please plan to attend the next PTO meeting, scheduled for 6:30, Dec. 1, 2009 - Library**

**We hope to see you at our meetings!! Thank you for your commitment and involvement.**

### New Kent Middle School PTO Officers 2009-2010

President	Michelle Williams	932-4238	<a href="mailto:thewilliamsclan@cox.net">thewilliamsclan@cox.net</a>
Vice Pres.	Janice Hargan	932-4432	<a href="mailto:Janice.Hargan@bestbuy.com">Janice.Hargan@bestbuy.com</a>
Secretary	Kathy Evers	966-5913	<a href="mailto:Everslanding6@aol.com">Everslanding6@aol.com</a>
Treasurer	Teresa Drumheller	932-8785	<a href="mailto:livingondalake@cox.net">livingondalake@cox.net</a>
Vol. Coor.	Janet Bland	966-1384	<a href="mailto:Blandprov@aol.com">Blandprov@aol.com</a>

### PTO Wreath Contest

The PTO Wreath Contest was such a success last year that we are doing it again this year. We will ask the students to bring in items from home to decorate their classroom wreath. **The wreaths must be ready and hung on the classroom door by December 4th.** Each wreath will be judged and the winning class will receive a reward. Last year the students were treated to orange juice and doughnuts.

## Help your School by Donating Printer Cartridges and Old Cell Phones!

School districts and nonprofit organizations across the country have been dealing with huge budget cuts, but we've found a way to supplement our budget.

NKMS PTO is participating in the FundingFactory Recycling Program! This fundraiser is FREE and simple because there's nothing to sell, no paperwork to fill out and no deadline. The program runs year-round, accumulating constant income for our efforts. But we won't get very far without your support. Please donate your empty printer cartridges and used cell phones to our school and we'll take it from there! We will recycle the cartridges and cell phones through FundingFactory to earn extra funding.

Last year alone, more than 300 million cartridges were thrown away, while 30,000,000 cell phones were tossed or replaced. We're alleviating the volume of waste that goes into landfills, while collecting cash we need to keep our school running smoothly. Your help is vital to our fundraising success. Cell phones and cartridges can be dropped off at the NKMS Main Office in the collection box there.

If you have any questions about this great opportunity, please feel free to e-mail me, Teresa Drumheller, at [livingondalake@cox.net](mailto:livingondalake@cox.net) Thank you for your support!

- New Kent Middle School PTO -



### Student Council Association

The New Kent Middle School Student Council Association (SCA), sponsored by 6th-grade teacher, Ms. Hathaway, has elected the following officers for the 2009-2010 school year:

President	Wilson Gregory	8th grade
Vice Pres.	Haley Curle	7th grade
Secretary	Sarah Day	7th grade
Treasurer	Alyssa Krause	7th grade
Reporter	Zelis Gomez	6th grade

6th grade representative	Jasmine Dabney
	Karyn Keane

7th grade representatives	Virginia Daniels
	Brianne Tomplins

8th grade representatives	Amanda Romin
	Marina Wright



### BETA Club up and Running!

**The Beta Club under the direction of 6th grade teacher, Ms. Folkes, is now meeting regularly on the second Thursdays of each month. We look forward to seeing the accomplishments of this special group during 2009-2010**



### 4 1/2-Weeks Assessment & Remediation—Q & A

This year we will be assessing students each four-and-a-half weeks in preparation for the Virginia SOL tests to be given in the Spring. These assessment scores will be a relatively small factor in determining interim reports and nine weeks grades, because **the primary goal of the assessments is to provide IMMEDIATE assistance to those students who need it. We will not wait until the latter part of the year to provide extra help to those who need it.** Four-and-a-half week tests are compiled of test items from reputable companies that make SOL preparation materials for many school systems in the state and put together. The teachers and/or the administration determine the individual items on these tests. Remediation may given on an individual or class basis depending on the needs. **Please ask your child how he/she performed on the tests.** These scores will count only as a quiz grade.

### *PTO and Box Tops for Education!*

**We're off to a fantastic start!**

**87 students participated in the first Box Top challenge! Doughnuts and hot chocolate will be served on 11/19 to those participants. This event raised \$541.80!! Keep the challenges coming!**



## Congratulations to Students with Perfect SOLs from 2009

<b>Sixth Grade</b>	FORD, ZACHARY	<b>MUSICK, BILLY (3)</b>	COOK, NATHANIEL	MOURIS, SKYLAR (2)
ANDERSON, EMMA-ROSE	GLOVER, DESMOND	NORTON, TIFFANY	COX, JACK (2)	NASH, JOSEPH
BABIN, CHRISTIAN(2)	GOMEZ, ZELIS	ODELL, SABRINA	DRUMHELLER, WILLIAM (2)	ORIE, TRENTON
BALDWIN, CAMERON	GRAY, BRENNAN	PAIGE, BRYCE	GARDNER, JACKSON	PIERCE, AUSTIN
BLAND, MEGAN	GRAY, JACKSON	PICKETT, CORTNEY	GEIGER, MATTHEW	PLOPPERT, EMILY
BOWMAN, DYLAN	GREY, EMILY	RAMIREZ, ROXANA (2)	GIFFIN, JAMES	ROBERTSON, TYLER
BRIGHTWELL, TYLER	GRIFFITH, SYDNEY (2)	RUHL, ETHAN (2)	GIPSON, KIRSTEN	RUBERT, BENJAMIN (2)
BRONDER, SASHA	HADEN, RYAN (2)	SHAHINIAN, SAMANTHA (2)	HOBSON, RACHEL	SCHWEGAL, IAN (2)
BUCHANAN, SARAJO (2)	HENLEY, SAVANNAH	<b>SNEAD, THOMAS (4)</b>	HOLT, RACHAEL	SLEDD, GINA
CATALANO, JONAH	<b>HUBER, HARRISON (3)</b>	STONE, COURTLAND (2)	KOTHE, CAITLYN	STEWART, SHELBY
COLLINS, MADELINE (2)	HUGULEY, CHRISTOPHER	SURRIDGE, MIRANDA (2)	KRAWIEC, JACQUELIN	STOREY, AMIEE
CRITZ, MARY (2)	JOHNS, DUNCAN	TAYLOR, DAVID	LARSEN, PAUL	STRIMPLE, JOSHUA
DAVIS, HANNAH	JOHNSON, MACKENZIE	URQUHART, KAYLA	<b>LECKIE, CARLEY (3)</b>	SULLIVAN, SEAN
DAVIS, TYLER	KEANE, KARYN (2)	VICK, JACOB	LOGAN, KAYLA	THADY, ROBIN
DEAN, ELYZABETH	KETTLE, CULLEN	WALLACE, ASHLYN	LUGG, RYAN	WAYMAN, BRIANNE
<b>DILANDRO, JACOB (3)</b>	KRAUSE, BRYANNA		MAJOR, ASHLEY	
DUNNAVANT, HALEY	LANKFORD, ALISSA	<b>Seventh and Eighth Grade</b>	MCCAUGHAN, CAITLIN (2)	<b>These students will be honored Nov. 25th at 8:30 a.m. in the gym. All Parents are invited.</b>
<b>DYE, EMILY (3)</b>	LOPEZ, TIMOTHY (2)	ANDERSON, REBECCA	MECHLING, LUKE	
<b>EARNHARDT, CAROLINE (3)</b>	<b>MCCAUGHAN, DARREN (4)</b>	BARNEY, CONNER	MEHALKO, OLIVIA	
ECKERT, JOSHUA (2)	MONAHAN, ASHLEY	BASHORE, CHRISTIAN	MEPHAM, MEGAN (2)	
<b>ELSWICK, JOHN (3)</b>	<b>MONTGOMERY, SAMANTHA (3)</b>	BRONDER, ALEC	MICKEY, SHANNON	
	MORRIS, SABRINA (2)	BYERS, RACHEL	MOON, SAMANTHA (2)	
	MORTILLARO, TIMOTHY		MORAN, JONATHON	
			MORRIS, CLARE (2)	



## NKMS INFO



- ◆ PTO meeting Tuesday, December 1 at 6:30 p.m. at NKMS.
- ◆ Congratulations to those students who made the Honor Roll for the first nine weeks! The administration and the teachers are planning a reward activity!! Thank you for your hard work!
- ◆ NKMS saw a number of students and faculty who participated in Spirit Week, which took place October 19-23. We appreciate your Lion pride!!

**It's not too late to join the PTO! Volunteers are always welcome and needed!**

**If you missed ordering the NKMS Spirit Wear from the PTO (1st order sent in 11/19/09), Don't Despair—there will be another order in the Spring**

## *Tips for Parents to help prevent their children from using drugs*

1. **Be absolutely clear with your kids that you don't want them using drugs.** Ever. Anywhere. Don't leave room for interpretation. And talk often about the dangers and results of drug and alcohol abuse. Once or twice a year won't do it. Get more specifics on setting the rules.
2. **Be a better listener.** Ask questions - and encourage them. Paraphrase what your teen says to you. Ask for their input about family decisions. Showing your willingness to listen will make your teen feel more comfortable about opening up to you.
3. **Give honest answers.** Don't make up what you don't know; offer to find out. If asked whether you've ever taken drugs, let them know what's important: That you don't want them using drugs.
4. **Use TV reports, anti-drug commercials, or school discussions** about drugs to help you introduce the subject in a natural, unforced way.
5. **Don't react in a way that will cut off further discussion.** If your teen makes statements that challenge or shock you, turn them into a calm discussion of why your teen thinks people use drugs, or whether the effect is worth the risk.
6. **Role-play with your teen** and practice ways to refuse drugs in different situations. Acknowledge how tough these moments can be.

*Taken from [www.theantidrug.com](http://www.theantidrug.com).*



## Library Happenings

Welcome back! I hope you had a relaxing summer with plenty of time for reading. Research tells us that students who spend time reading perform better in school. I hope to work with your child to encourage his or her love of reading.

Your child will visit the library with his or her Language Arts teacher. Students may also visit the library during morning and afternoon bus loads, during lunch, or during class time with a pass from his or her teacher.

Students may check out a total of three books and these books may be renewed one time. Students will have access to the electronic card catalog to locate books of interest to them.

October was Reading Month at New Kent Middle School. We encourage all students to read! Middle school students are not too old for reading aloud. In fact, some of the best books for reading aloud are most enjoyed by middle school students.

The Book Fair will be coming up during the first week in December. You will be receiving more information about this soon. Finally, please contact me if you have questions or if I can help you.

- Ms. Buchanan , NKMS Librarian



## Student Check-Out Procedures

**Parents - Please remember that in order to pick your child up early from school, you will need to come in and SIGN YOUR CHILD OUT IN THE MAIN OFFICE.**

**Also, WRITTEN permission is required for your child to go home with someone else or to ride a different bus or getting off at a different stop.**

**This is for your child's safety. Thank you for your cooperation as we strive to keep safety first.**

NEW KENT MIDDLE SCHOOL  
P.O. BOX 190  
NEW KENT, VIRGINIA 23124

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
New Kent, VA  
Permit No.20



Phone: 804-966-9655

Fax: 804-966-2703



**COME ON OUT AND SUPPORT THE WRESTLING, VOLLEYBALL,  
BOYS' BASKETBALL, J.V.GIRLS' BASKETBALL AND CHEERING**

**We will be unveiling our NEW school webpage soon!!!**

**Make sure you visit New Kent Middle School's current website @ [www.newkentschools.org/sites/nkms/](http://www.newkentschools.org/sites/nkms/)**

We hope the year is going well. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact either of the administrators at the school: Mr. Bruce A. Cook, Principal or Mr. Todd Miller, Assistant Principal.



### **NKMS Lions Calendar: December/January 2009**



**Dates are  
subject to change.  
Please contact  
school to verify  
the event  
immediately prior  
to the event or  
you may check  
our website.**

December 2-9	Book Fair
December 7	New Kent County School Board Meeting 7:00 P.M. High School Auditorium
December 10	Winter Concert—8th-Grade Band and 7th & 8th-Grade Choir 6:30 P.M. Gym
December 15	Interim Reports Go Home & McDonald's Night Fundraiser for PTO
December 15	8th Grade Choir and Band to perform at Virginia Center Commons
December 21	January 1—Winter Break
January 4	School re-opens

