



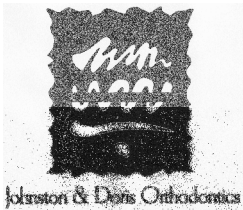
**Dodgen's Partners
In Education**



**Kroger @ Shallowford,
Dawn Hawkins**



Piedmont Commons



**The UPS Store @
Merchants Festival,
David Goodwill**



everychild.one voice.

DODGEN DATELINE

Dodgen Middle School PTSA
1725 Bill Murdock Road
Marietta, GA 30062
770-578-2726
www.dodgenptsa.org

Robin Lattizori
Principal

Marge Cavitt and Clairevon Nixon
PTSA Co-Presidents

October 2011

From the PTSA Co-Presidents:

Working Together

Fall is here. Believe it or not we are heading in to the 8th week of the school year. We hope the year has been going well for you and your student, and has settled into a comfortable routine. This is a great time for us to share with you just a few of the programs Dodgen PTSA provides for its students, parents, staff and community. As part of our Arts in Education and Health and Youth Services Committees, we support three of the PTA National Programs: "Reflections, "Honoring our Heroes" and "Red Ribbon Week." "Reflections" is a contest encouraging students to produce an original piece of work in various categories. The Reflections theme for this year is "Diversity Means..." All entries for Reflections are due Monday October 3, 2011. For more information and to go over the rules please visit <http://www.georgiapta.org/leadership-reflections.html>. "Heroes" is an essay writing contest in February, where students are invited to write an essay about a person who has touched or made a difference in their lives. In October, we recognize "Red Ribbon Week" where we promote "Say no to drugs, alcohol and tobacco" with a variety of themes each day throughout that week.

On the last day before winter break we hold our second annual "Dodgen Gives Back" day as part of our Community Outreach Committee. PTSA, faculty and students will work on a variety of outreach projects putting the focus on helping others in our community. If you would like to help out or share ideas please contact us at co-president@dodgenptsa.org.

We hope those of you new to Dodgen were able to attend the New Parent Tea in August. If you could not attend please visit www.dodgenptsa.org and check out the links under Panther Day for some great information. Please mark your calendars for the next Coffee Talk, Friday, November 4th. It is a great way to chat with Administration and PTSA about school news, events, programs, and education. It is also a great way to connect with other parents and have a great cup of Caribou Coffee too. Everyone is welcome to come.

Our goal this 2011-2012 school year is to continue "Working Together" to make this year a wonderful experience for our Dodgen family. Thank you for your monetary donation this year. Without your generosity we could not provide the programs and events that help make Dodgen a great school. We have an amazing group of PTSA volunteers that work hard to make the programs and events happen. Thank you for your time, energy, enthusiasm and support.

Marge Cavitt & Clairevon Nixon
PTSA Co-Presidents

From The Principal . . .



Dear Dodgen Families,

The school year is well underway, and our students have really settled in nicely. Reflecting on many school openings, this one has been one of the smoothest openings yet. Each year we begin by setting goals for what we want to accomplish. Dodgen students consistently do extremely well on varied assessments, and as a school, we usually score at the highest level of all middle schools in Cobb County. As a matter-of-fact, our 7th graders from last school year scored the highest in each academic area for all of Cobb middle schools on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. In a few weeks our standardized testing will begin. Our 7th graders will be taking the Cognitive Abilities Test October 5th through the 7th, and the Iowa Test of Basic Skills October 10th through the 14th.

One of the assessments we administer to our 8th grade students each year is a writing test. These tests are scored by outside services, and we receive data about our students and their writing skills. While 100% of our students passed the writing exam in recent years, we have found that 75% meet the expectations and only 25% exceed expectations. We would like to see more of our students exceed those standards. Therefore, we will place a strong focus on teaching writing skills. In January, when our 8th graders take the official Writing Test, our 6th and 7th graders will be taking a "mock" writing assessment. We feel this will have a two prong impact: our 6th and 7th grade students will have the experience of what to expect when they take the test in the 8th grade, and it will give our teachers some valuable information about what skills our students need to become better writers.

Last week we held our first "Coffee Talk." I believe those that attended felt that it was time well spent. We discussed current events happening at Dodgen and had open-ended dialogue regarding questions and concerns. Our next "Coffee Talk" will be on November 4th at 9:30 in our cafeteria. We hope you can join us then.

As you know, Conference Week is in October. This is a time when you will have the opportunity to meet with one of your student's teachers. These conferences are important as we partner together for student success. Thank you for your continued support for all we do.

For kids,

Robin

Reflections Program

Deadline to submit is Monday, October 3, 2011.

Each year, the PTA Reflections Program challenges students to create art inspired by a specific theme. The theme this year is: "Diversity Means."

To find specific Reflections program information go to the reflections web page at <http://www.georgiapta.org/leadership-reflections.html>

Thank You!

Thank you to Carolyn Peacock and the team of volunteers who made the 7th grade dance a huge success!





Thanks to the Dodgen community for supporting our recent fund drive and Cheesecake sale. The Band students generated over

\$21,000.00 in profit for our Band program. I understand that the Orchestra and Chorus had a successful drive as well! All directors of our performing music ensembles thank you for supporting music education in our school!

The Dodgen 8th grade bands will perform at the upcoming Walton and Pope High School football games on Friday, September 30th. This is a great way for our students to use their talents and contribute to community life. The 8th grade band nights at Walton and Pope provide our students an opportunity to experience the thrill and excitement of being a part of a world-class high school band!

Please visit the Band website at www.DodgenBand.org for a complete calendar of events for this year.

Sincerely, Dr. Charles R. Jackson, Director of Bands

PTSA MEMBER BENEFITS

Did you know your Dodgen PTSA membership provides discounts and benefits at local businesses such as: Subway, Three-13, Domino's Pizza, Zoo Atlanta, Fernbank, Chattahoochee Nature Center, Chick-fil-a, and much more? Visit www.DodgenPTSA.org/benefits.html for more information on how you can use your PTSA card and save!

6th GRADE DANCE 10/11 4:15-6:00 p.m.

6th grade dance is October 11th from 4:15-6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$3.00. Snacks will be available for purchase. Teachers will chaperone. Tickets are on sale before school in the 6th grade pod October 6, 7 and 10.



Blake Cooper Productions, Inc. Presents Beauty and the Beast Auditions Coming Soon!

October 17th, 19th, 24th, 26th, 2011
7:30-9:00 a.m. in the Dodgen Middle School Theater

Cast List Posted: October 28th 9:00 a.m.

Auditions for our musical to be held at Dodgen Middle School will be October 17th, 19th, 24th, 26th, 2011. Rehearsals will be on Monday and Wednesday mornings beginning October 31st from 7:30-9:00 a.m. **Performances will be March 23rd-25th at 7:00 p.m. on the Dodgen Middle School Stage.** Please visit www.bcprod.org/dodgen for the complete schedule, information packet and audition materials.

Please sign and return the Acknowledgement of Program Expectations and the Audition Preference Form if your child will be auditioning to the **BLACK MAILBOX in the Front Office of Dodgen Middle School by FRIDAY, October 14th.** All actors **MUST** be present for their audition on their scheduled day. You will receive your audition date via email.

Thank you for your support of Blake Cooper Productions, Inc. We look forward to working with the talented students at Dodgen Middle School. For more information, please visit our website www.bcprod.org or contact Blake Cooper at director@bcprod.org or Marge Cavitt at mcavitt@bcprod.org.

Blake Cooper Productions, Inc. is a proud Partner In Education with Dodgen Middle School through the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce.

Red Ribbon Week



The Health and Youth Prevention PTSA Committee at Dodgen Middle School would like to remind everyone of the upcoming annual Red Ribbon Week that will be recognized October 24th-28th. Various activities will be planned each day for the week with a new theme each day of the week. If



you are interested in participating in Red Ribbon Week, please email health.youthservices@dodgenptsa.org.

Red Ribbon Week began after the kidnapping, torture and brutal murder of Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena in 1985. Agent Camarena had been working undercover in Guadalajara, Mexico for over four years. His efforts led to a tip that resulted in the discovery of a multimillion dollar narcotics manufacturing operation in Chihuahua, Mexico. The successful eradication of this and other drug production operations angered leaders of several drug cartels who sought revenge. As a result, they murdered key informants and then, on February 7, 1985, they kidnapped Agent Camarena.

Today, the Red Ribbon Week brings millions of people together to raise awareness regarding the need for alcohol, tobacco and other drug and violence prevention, early intervention, and treatment services. It is the largest, most visible prevention awareness campaign observed annually in the United States.

Support Dodgen — It's as Easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. PUBLIX SHOPPING CARDS AVAILABLE IN LOBBY

Just add them to your keychain, use them at any Publix store and the PTSA will earn credit.

2. BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

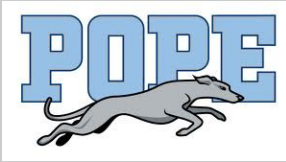
Please drop off your box tops in the front hall on the table across from the office. Thanks again and keep clipping! Make sure to look for box tops on your school supplies this year. Binders, packs of paper, pens and many other school supplies have been added to the growing list of products that support Box Tops for Education. For a full list of items carrying box tops and to receive valuable coupons, you can visit www.boxtopsforeducation.com

3. RECYCLING

Empty Printer Cartridges? Used Cell Phones? Place them in a zipper-type plastic bag and send them to the Media Center. Dodgen receives a cash rebate, and the items are recycled for another use.

For more information on these programs, visit our website at www.DodgenPTSA.org.





Pope Jr. Wrestling: a unique sport and a lot of fun. Practice starts Wednesday, Oct. 26th. Please visit www.popejrwrestling.com for registration information and FAQ's

On September 21, State Superintendent of Education, John D. Barge, along with staff in the GA Department of Education Curriculum and Instruction division, hosted a web-delivered broadcast to introduce to all stakeholders the upcoming Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS).

The Web link for the initial broadcast and the archived sessions will be:

<http://www.gpb.org/education/common-core>

We hope that all stakeholders will find an opportunity to view this broadcast and learn about the future of education, not only in Georgia, but across the United States.

Register Today! Ryder 5K and Festival

Saturday, October 8 at 8:00am

Festival will be held immediately afterwards.

You won't want to miss the Cake Walk, Air Baseball, and you have to come see who will be kissing Penelope the Pig! To vote for your teacher to kiss the pig at the festival simply put your extra change in the piggy banks in the cafeteria! You don't want to miss all the fun!

Look for Registration tables in your pod or Register Online at: www.active.com/donate/ryder5K

If you would like to buy a "Rally for Ryder" t-shirt to show your support for Ryder, please click the link below. Please note that these t-shirts are not the actual race t-shirts. Different t-shirts will be distributed to those that register for the race. Visit <http://www.active.com/donate/rallykidtshirts/ryderewing> to purchase a t-shirt to support the Rally Foundation.

Dodgen/Scholastic Book Fair October 24-28

Please come support the Dodgen Middle School Media Center by shopping at the Book Fair scheduled for the week of October 24th (Conference Week) in the media center. A portion of the proceeds from the Book Fair will go to much-needed equipment and new books. There will be many old and new favorites to choose from so make sure to stop by the Book Fair during Conference Week and stock up on some great books.

Parents and Students: Stop by the Book Fair to purchase Gift Certificates for your favorite teachers (\$1 and \$5 increments.)

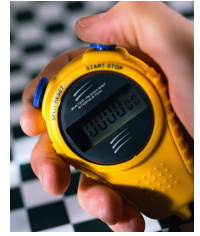


Students-look in your Scholastic Book Fair Flyers (distributed in home room) for a chance to win \$5 in free books at the book fair.

Book Fair hours are 8:15-4:30 Monday through Thursday. Friday TBD.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer to help at the Book Fair, please contact Mitzi Underwood 770-579-6919 (mitziu@gmail.com) or Susan Higgins 770-971-2277 (susan@planetstudio.com).

Save the Date: Kincaid Fun Run and 3K Run



Mark your calendars for the annual Kincaid Elementary Fun Run and 3K Run on Saturday, November 5th at 9:15 AM. While the 1 mile Fun Run is for just Kincaid students, the 3K run is open to the community. We would love to see alumni come back to Kincaid for this annual event. We welcome track and cross country teams to join us for a "warm up" session! This year, our P.E. department has partnered with the Kincaid Foundation to include a post-run community fun festival.

Visit www.kincaidfoundation.org/events, scroll down to the Fun Run event and use the link there to access the registration form that should be printed and mailed in.

If you have any questions, please contact Scott Furr, head of the P.E. team at Kincaid at scott.furr@cobbk12.org, or you can reach him at school by calling the Kincaid front office at: 770-578-7238.

What PTA Stands For...

Collaboration: We work in partnership with a wide array of individuals and organizations to accomplish our agreed-upon goals.

Commitment: We are dedicated to promoting children's health, well-being, and educational success through strong parent, family, and community involvement.

Accountability: We acknowledge our obligations. We deliver on our promises.

Respect: We value our colleagues and ourselves. We expect the same high quality of effort and thought from ourselves as we do from others.

Inclusivity: We invite the stranger and welcome the newcomer. We value and seek input from as wide a spectrum of viewpoints and experiences as possible.

Integrity: We act consistently with our beliefs. When we err, we acknowledge the mistake and seek to make amends.

Walton Tech Night is Coming!

The Walton Career Tech Department is presenting an action packed evening called Tech Night on Thursday, October 27th, 2011.

The purpose of this event to expose the Walton community to career opportunities in technical industries. Current students taking technical courses will enjoy an evening of "show and tell" for parents, friends and others as well as receiving post secondary information from college representatives, industry professionals and former students working in our represented industries. We currently offer Graphic Communications, Broadcast Video, Auto Service Technology and Pre-Engineering.



For any additional questions please call Dan Campagna at 770-578-3225 ext. 290. We look forward to seeing you at Walton!

Registration/Articulation Activities for Eighth Grade/Rising Ninth Grade Students



Pope High School

October 17, 2011: "What you need to know now" Parent meeting
Dodgen theater 6:30 p.m.

February 21, 2012: Registration materials go home with students.

February 27, 2012: Parent Curriculum Meeting, Pope High School

7:00 p.m.

February 28, 2012: Pope Counselors to meet with parents at Dodgen.

March 2, 2012: All registration materials are due back to DODGEN.



Walton High School

October 18, 2011: "What you need to know now" Parent meeting Dodgen
theater 6:30 p.m.

October 27, 2011: "Walton Tech Night" at Walton. Please contact Dan Cam-
pagna at 770-578-3225 x 290 for details.

March 6, 2012: Parent Curriculum Meeting—Walton High School 6:30 p.m.

March 2012: Walton counselors to meet with parents at Walton. Walton registration
materials will go home with students in March. Exact dates are being determined.

More information will follow.

Magnet School Information:

Pebblebrook High School—November 9, 2011 Mr. Timmerman will meet with inter-
ested students. Students MUST sign up in the counseling office. Auditions will be held
at Dodgen on November 30, 2011. Open House October 14, 2011, 7:30 p.m., JTAnde-
rson Theater, Cobb Civic Center

Campbell High School International Baccalaureate Program

Open House: Wed, Nov 16, 7:00 p.m., Livingston Auditorium, Campbell High School

Kennesaw Mountain Academy of Math, Science, Technology

Open House: Thursday Nov 17, 2011 7:00 p.m. Kennesaw Mountain School Theater

North Cobb School for International Studies

Open House: Tuesday November 15, 2011 7:00 p.m. Media Center North Cobb High
School

South Cobb HS Academy of Research and Medical Sciences

Open House: Wed Nov. 9, 2011 7:00 p.m. Theater, South Cobb High School

Wheeler HS Center for Advanced Studies in Science, Math and Technology

Open House: Tuesday November 8, 2011 7:00 p.m. Lipscomb Gym Wheeler High
School

Please call counselors if you have questions:

Dr. Gayle DuPre—770-578-2726 x 230

Dr. Pamela DePetro—770-578-2726 x 275

Dodgen Middle School

PTSA

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Dates to Remember

October 3	Reflections Entries Deadline Must Ministries Food Drive
October 8	Dodgen 5K
October 11	6th Grade Dance 4:00-6:00 p.m.
October 24-28	Book Fair Week Conference/Report Card Week
October 28	Dodgen Dateline Deadline
November 5	Coffee Talk 9:30 a.m.
November 8	No School—Student Holiday
November 21-25	No School—Thanksgiving Holidays

Websites and Emails

Dodgen Middle School
www.cobbk12.org/dodgen

Dodgen PTSA
www.dodgenptsa.org

Cobb County Schools
www.cobb.k12.ga.us/

Georgia PTA
www.georgiapta.org

National PTA
www.pta.org

Emails for Dodgen PTSA
co-president@dodgenptsa.org
vicepresident@dodgenptsa.org
secretary@dodgenptsa.org
treasurer@dodgenptsa.org
newsletter@dodgenptsa.org

Dodgen Middle School—Georgia School of Excellence

Vision Statement:

All children will receive the respect, encouragement, and opportunities they need to build the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to be successful, contributing members of a global society.

Mission Statement:

Dodgen Middle School's mission is to promote academic excellence, individual responsibility, resourcefulness, creativity, mutual respect, and self-esteem in a healthy, nurturing environment.



For the latest information on Dodgen PTSA, please subscribe to the e-message at:

<http://www.dodgenptsa.org/e-news.html>

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The *Dateline* is prepared by Laurie Rashidi-Yazd, newsletter@dodgenptsa.org.