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In Education**



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Piedmont Commons



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David Goodwill



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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

September 2011

From the PTSA Co-Presidents:

Working Together

On behalf of the Dodgen PTSA, we would like to welcome all of our new families and our returning families to the start of another exciting year at Dodgen Middle School. It was great to see and meet many of you at Panther Day and at the Open House nights in August. The PTSA has been busy working together planning and preparing for programs and events for our students, parents, and teachers.

If you have not joined the Dodgen PTSA yet, we encourage your family to join and be a voice for all children. Not only will you be a part of our local PTSA, but you will also be a part of the state and national PTA. We want to thank all of you who have made a donation to the Dodgen PTSA. If you have not yet made your donation, we ask that you consider making a one-time, tax deductible donation to our PTSA. The Dodgen PTSA does not do fundraisers; we will never ask you and your child to sell anything. The wonderful programs and events sponsored by the PTSA are made possible through the generosity of your donations. If you would like to, please enclose your donation in an envelope and drop it in the white PTSA mailbox outside the front office.

As always, communication is very important to the Dodgen PTSA. We urge everyone to subscribe to our e-message system. Simply go to www.dodgenptsa.org, click enews and self subscribe. In addition to receiving your link to the online Dateline, you will also receive weekly e-news, reminders for PTSA and school programs and events, community information, and news from our feeder schools including Pope High School and Walton High School.

Along with Panther Day and the Open House nights, we hope that some of you were able to attend the New Parent Tea. Some of the programs we have coming up are the East Cobber Parade, Coffee Talk with the administration, and the 6th and 7th Grade Dances. Please see the "Dates to Remember" in this issue to see what's happening in the near future.

We are excited about working with all of you this year. We know the start of the school year is a busy time for everyone. If you can make some time to volunteer, we would love to have you! You can volunteer by going to dodgenptsa.org and selecting your area(s) of interest on the "Volunteer" page. Or stop by the school and pick up a form, fill it out and drop it in the PTSA mailbox.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding volunteering or the programs and events of the PTSA. We hope to make this a successful year of Working Together!

Marge Cavitt & Clairevon Nixon
PTSA Co-Presidents

From The Principal . . .

Dear Dodgen families,

Welcome back to school! We have had a very smooth opening and our students are settling in nicely. Our new 6th grade students are finding their way around the halls, our 7th grade students are taking it all in stride, and our 8th grade students are leading the way!



Thank you for attending our Open Houses. It is so important that you as families know how to support your student at home. Understanding what is going on in their classrooms, and the expectations their teachers have, is critical for their success. Research shows that when we all work together, everyone succeeds!

Hopefully you all had a chance to see our brand new theater! Through SPLOST funds, we have a new sound system, lighting system, curtains, chairs, and carpet. Now, when you come to see your student perform, you will actually be able to see and hear them! Our theater was just one of four improvements made at Dodgen this summer through SPLOST funds.

Our first Coffee Talk is Friday, September 9th in the Dodgen cafeteria. Come to learn about the great things going on here at Dodgen and get your questions answered. We hope to see many of you there! We look forward to a great school year as we will be *Working Together* for all of our students.

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>



EAST COBBER PARADE

Saturday, September 10

Parade begins at 10 a.m. in the Mt. Bethel Elementary School parking lot and concludes in the Olde Towne shopping center. Local businesses, arts and crafts, as well as entertainment will be available in Olde Towne from 11 a.m.—3 p.m.

Dodgen Middle School Counseling Services Mission Statement

The Dodgen Middle School counselors collaborate with administration, teachers, students, parents to prepare and encourage all students to achieve exemplary academic and personal success. Student success is our primary focus. We are available to all students through classroom, small group, and individual counseling. Counselors do whatever it takes to encourage students to become their personal best. We provide a comprehensive developmental program that addresses academic, career, and social/emotional needs for every student. We also strive to empower students to achieve their academic and personal best for their current academic setting and become lifelong learners in the future.

The counselors at Dodgen are:

- Ms. Gayle DuPre, counselor for seventh and eighth grade A-L.
770-578-2726 x 230 Gayle.DuPre@cobbk12.org
- Ms. Pamela DePetro, counselor for sixth and eighth grade M-Z.
770-578-2726 x 275 Pamela.DePetro@cobbk12.org

Please let us know if we can help you!



SAVE THE DATE Dodgen 5K and Festival

The Ryder "Carve out Cancer" 5K and Festival will be held October 8th at Dodgen Middle School. The festival will feature an old fashioned cake walk, face painting, pumpkin painting and much, much more. All proceeds from the race benefit Childhood Cancer Research. **SAVE THE DATE** for loads of fun!!

SEPTEMBER CHADD MEETING

The East Cobb Satellite of CHADD will hold its September meeting on 9/13/11 at the East Cobb Library in Marietta, GA. Our speaker, Dr. Carol Matheson, will present techniques for managing anxiety, anger, and overall behavior with ADHD children. The meeting will be from 6-7:30 pm. Please join us as we learn new, fresh ways to help our children. Feel free to invite a friend! If you have any questions, contact Cappie Suttle at 404-368-9394.

Pope Girls Basketball Tryouts

Its hard to believe that the summer is over and Girls Basketball is just around the corner!!!! Tryouts are September 11th at Pope in the Aux gym.

We are having a 5th grade team this year!!! On the first day, the 5th and 6th grades will tryout together. 4th graders are allowed to tryout for the 5th grade team.

Times are: 1:00 p.m. for the 4th, 5th & 6th graders
 3:00 p.m. for the 7th graders
 5:00 p.m. for the 8th graders

*Depending on the amount of players trying out, there may be multiple try out days.

We are also having a pre tryout clinic. Lots of shooting! Clinic \$75.00, Location Dodgen Middle School Times 6 - 8 p.m., Dates Aug 30, 31, Sept 1, 6, 7, and 8th.

There are several very good coaches coming to help out in the clinics! Please contact Coach Suzy Edger-ton at Suzyedgeton@aol.com with any questions.

Dodgen Middle School

PTSA

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September 2011

Magnet School Presentation
Tuesday September 13, 2011
6:30 PM
Dodgen Middle School Theater

The Cobb County School District recognizes that students who demonstrate exceptional potential in a specific area may benefit from a specialized program. Cobb's magnet programs allow students to pursue their interests, develop their talents, and extend their competencies beyond the usual scope of high school. During fall semester, eighth grade students at each district middle school are provided information about all magnet programs.



Due to limited space at each program, students are selected through a highly-competitive, rigorous application process. Applications to academic magnets are due in early December. Performing arts candidates participate in an application/audition process during spring semester. The district provides arterial transportation for students attending magnet programs. Interested students and parents should go online or contact program coordinators for more information.

Dodgen parents and students are invited to attend!

Volunteers needed for Hearing and Vision Screening--September 12-16

Volunteers are needed for hearing and vision screening. We operate 4 or 5 hearing stations and 3 or 4 vision stations. With the addition of 2 "runners", we need a total of 10 volunteers per day, for a time commitment of about 2 hours each day, beginning at 11:45 a.m.

If you can only work one or two days, great! If you can work the entire week, even better! State regulations require **all persons who administer a hearing or vision screening must attend one training session**, which is slated for Thursday, September 8th at Palmer Middle school at 8:30 a.m. If you are unable to attend on Thursday, you may attend on Wednesday, September 7th. The workshop lasts approximately 3 hours.

FYI: Hearing check out for renewing screeners is Wednesday, September 7th 1:30 p.m.—2:30 p.m. at Palmer Middle School.

Vision checkout for renewing screeners is Tuesday, September 7th or 8th at 11:15 a.m. at Palmer Middle School.

A renewing screener is someone who has attended two previous training sessions and has performed screenings before.

Contact Tricia Eoff at 770-578-2726 or tricia.eoff@cobbk12.org for the particulars.



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

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

PTSA needs all of us *Working Together* to make this school year a success. If you would like to volunteer, forms are available in the Dodgen front office or email Rani Quirk at volunteercoordinator@dodgenptsa.org.

SCHOOL STORE

The store is open every morning before school starts, 8:40am-9:10am. It is located near the cafeteria. Vocabulary books, PTSA calendars, spiritwear, magnets and a wide variety of school supplies may be purchased. Questions? Please contact Laura Borel at school-store@dodgenptsa.org

Girls On The Run is coming to Dodgen!

Girls on the run is an organization designed to educate and prepare girls for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living. The program consists of training for a 5K race while incorporating character building and self esteem enhancing activities.

The program takes place over 12 weeks and consists of groups of 8-15 girls and meets twice a week for 90 minutes. The Fall program will conclude on November 13 with the New Balance Girls on the Run 5 K Run/Walk Celebration in downtown Atlanta. Please come join in on the fun. We look forward to running with you!

Registration Info: www.girlsontherunatlanta.org
Meets: Mondays 5-6:30 and Saturdays 10-11:30 at the East Piedmont YMCA. Space is limited! Registration is now open! Financial Aid is available online.

Questions? Contact: Molly O'Neil, 770-365-6929 or Karen Schwartz, karen.schwartz@cobbk12.org

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).

Travel Abroad

Attention all 7th and 8th graders! Do you have an adventurous spirit? Want to get up close and personal with a volcano, explore a rainforest filled with endangered species, or lounge on a tropical beach?

You can do all of that in Costa Rica! Join Mrs. Becton and Mrs. Keever on a week-long trip to Central America next June. If you're interested in joining us, bring a parent to an informational meeting on Thursday, September 15th at 6pm in the media center. The trip is open to all current Dodgen 7th and 8th graders as well as any Dodgen alumni.



Intramurals

Come start your day off right. Dodgen has a before school sports program that will help wake you up and get the blood pumping! Intramurals gives students a chance to play in organized, supervised game situations. All students are encouraged to participate. The philosophy for the program is for students, regardless of athletic abilities, to participate and have fun.

Students must be at school by **8:15 a.m.** When the doors open to the school, students report to the gym, sign in and dress out. Students must dress out in proper attire (**white or gray t-shirt, elastic waist shorts, and tennis shoes**). If a student has not been issued a PE lock and locker, they will be given one in intramurals. Students can check the calendar posted in the gym for activities.

Intramurals will begin **September 6**. Come join the FUN!



PTSA Membership News

We would like to thank all the students, parents and staff who have joined the PTSA this year. If you have not had a chance to sign up to become a PTSA member for the 2011-2012 school year, there are order forms available in the Dodgen front lobby. Please return your completed form with payment to the school. Any items ordered will be delivered to your student. Please allow one week for your order to be processed.

A few of our members had to wait on their membership cards when we ran out during Panther Day. We appreciate your patience. All those cards have now been distributed via your child's homeroom. If you have not received your membership card(s) and/or coupons, please email us at: membership@dodgenptsa.org.

The 2011/2012 PTSA benefits will soon be reflected on the Membership Benefits page of the Dodgen PTSA website. Please visit our website at <http://www.dodgenptsa.org/>



Dates to Remember

September 5	Labor Day—No School
September 9	Coffee Talk, 9:30 a.m.
September 10	East Cobber Parade
September 21	Progress Reports
September 22	7th Grade Dance 4:00-6:00 p.m.
September 23	PTA Advocacy Conference
October 3	Reflections Entries Deadline
October 8	Dodgen 5K
October 11	6th Grade Dace 4:00-6:00 p.m.
October 24-28	Book Fair Week

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>

Don't Forget to Support Dodgen PTSA



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