



**Dodgen's Partners:  
 In Education**

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**Dr. Mark Johnson,  
 DMD,MS**

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



**FEBRUARY 2006**

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## Message From The PTSA President

Dodgen Middle School – Learning Today, Succeeding Tomorrow

The 2005 Georgia Report Card from the Georgia Public Policy Foundation is out. Dodgen Middle School ranks 6th in the State with 97.4% Achievement Score with 72.7% exceeding standards. We also congratulate our neighboring Middle Schools, Hightower Trail, ranking 4th with score of 98.3%, with 70.8 % exceeding standards and Dickerson ranking 8th with a score of 97.2% with 71.6% exceeding standards. What a great community we live in.

Dodgen continues to grow as the construction of our additions is nearly completed. This year we are able to utilize the new science labs and classrooms for 6th and 8th grades, and computer labs in each pod. It is anticipated that construction will be complete in the 7th grade area early 2006.

Due to our "extra space" this year, we are a receiving school for the AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) Program. Dodgen welcomed over 60 wonderful new students to our school. An additional Meet and Greet session was presented by Dodgen Administration, Counselors, Faculty and PTSA to facilitate a smooth transition for our new students and their families. Redistricting proposals for 2006-2007 would increase Dodgen's student population from approximately 800 to over 1100.

This year Dodgen PTSA has introduced some new and exciting programs. PTSA received a \$500 grant from Georgia Board of Regents to establish a GO Center. GO Centers are a grassroots network of college and career access centers located in schools and communities across the state of Georgia. We are the first Middle School in

Georgia to have a center. This center will be manned by PTSA volunteers leading a group of Walton HS student mentors. This was the second year of "SMART FAIR", a day long program of workshops in Science, Math, Arts and Technology facilitated and sponsored by PTSA. This was held the last day of school before winter break.

Dodgen PTSA was awarded \$1500 in a contest sponsored by The Avenue at East Cobb. These funds will provide additional enrichment programs for our students, focusing on health and safety. Heart Screens for Teens and Family Wellness day will be held in February. Community outreach efforts have included contributions by families totaling over \$7000 for Hurricane Relief and a benefit event for Juvenile Diabetes raising over \$1300. Student Awareness Club and PTSA provided 150 Halloween treat bags for Children's Healthcare, prepared lunches for MUST Ministries, held a Thanksgiving food drive and are wrote letters to soldiers and prepared holiday stockings for the Salvation Army.

PTSA volunteers have assisted the Fine Arts departments, Guidance Office, Media Center and Front Office. Monthly evening Family Development programs and Lunch and Learns are in place. Parent volunteers are assisting with Science Olympiad practice sessions.

Dodgen has a newly developed PTSA website that can be linked from the Dodgen School website or at [dodgenptsa.org](http://dodgenptsa.org).

Learning today, succeeding tomorrow.....Dodgen PTSA, Parents, Teachers and Students working together for Success.

Mary L. Winther, President  
 Dodgen PTSA

*"This article appeared in the December ECCC newsletter that featured Middle Schools"*

## Message From The Principal

As you know, the Cobb County Board of Education cast its vote for Redistricting Plan B on December 8, 2005. I know that each of you, as current Dodgen Middle School parents and students, join me in welcoming our wonderful neighbors and friends. We have an opportunity to make new friends, and the responsibility to provide an atmosphere of warmth. Someone recently characterized Dodgen as a school with a nurturing, family-like atmosphere. I am proud that the teachers and staff at Dodgen have earned such a reputation without having sacrificed the academic rigor that challenges our students to such exceptional achievement. I am excited to imagine the impact that our new families will afford.

About seven months will pass before our new friends will attend Dodgen Middle School. From now until August 2006, we should find ways to help those friends who are unsure, and further excite those who are enthusiastic, about their future as part of the Dodgen community. For this purpose, I have created my own web log (blog) to provide additional information about the remarkable events and opportunities available at Dodgen. You may visit my blog at [www.dodgenms.typepad.com/notes\\_from\\_mr\\_snells\\_off/](http://www.dodgenms.typepad.com/notes_from_mr_snells_off/). As information available on this blog will continue to reassure you, I proudly represent a community of teachers and parents who know how to provide educational value to students that is second to none.

Jim Snell  
 Principal

## Ms. Fletcher's Health Classes Generously Donated Holiday Stockings For Operation Stars & Stripes, Inc,



Ms. Fletcher's health classes generously donated enough items to fill 165 holiday stockings for Operation Stars & Stripes, Inc, a local 501(c)3 non-profit that supports America's military and their families at home and abroad.

These stockings have been sent to our troops currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan in hopes that they will know Dodgen students are aware of their selfless sacrifices and appreciative of their ser-

vice to our country.

The 6th grade classes pictured with Ms. Fletcher were the largest donors. Thank you to all who made this service project a great success. Please continue to bring in your items for our upcoming project-Bags of Love.

For more information on how you and your family can help our troops, please visit Operation Stars & Stripe, Inc.'s website at StarsStripes4u.org. ■

### 8<sup>th</sup> grade Transition Schedule 2005-2006

POPE HS	EVENT	WALTON HS
February 7	<b>Registration Materials given to students</b>	March 13, 2006
February 14 @ 6:30 PM @ Pope High School	<b>Parents meet with Department chairs</b>	N/A
February 22 8:00 AM – 3:00PM	<b>Parents meet with HS Counselors by appointment @ Dodgen</b>	March 30 8:00- 3:00 PM Dodgen Guidance meeting room
February 24	<b>Final date to return Registration material to Mrs. Burgess</b>	March 29 , 2006

### *First Place In The Regional Page Academic Bowl*

D o d - gen was first place in the Regional Page Academic Bowl. They competed in the Semi-finals in Macon, GA on the 21st of January. **Dodgens students performed very well** stu-



dents who participated in the regional tournament are as follows:

Prashanth S., Austin H., Aaron K., Jamie L., Zabby H., Kevin L., Jacob M., Shejuti B., and Kathryn S.

Dodgen's coaches are Virginia Stevens, coordinator/coach, Dora Barzegar, Nancy Corey, Brian Wilson, Adrienne Blakely, and Tracy Sturtevant. ■

### **Walton Jr. Raiders Basketball and Football/Competition cheerleading squads**

Calling all rising 7th and 8th grade and Dodgen Middle School girls interested in trying out for Walton Jr. Raiders Basketball and Football/Competition cheerleading squads.

The cheerleading clinic is Monday, March 27 - Wednesday, March 29 at Dickerson Middle School. Time is 4:30-6:00p. m. Tryout day is Thursday, March 30.

An informative/mandatory parent meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 2, at 7:00p.m. Mt. Bethel United Methodist Chapel on Lower Roswell Road.

Please plan on attending if your daughter is interested in trying out.

Any questions call  
Cathy Long: 770/649-0165.

### **Counselor's Corner**

Dodgen Middle School is a great place to work and receive a quality education. This has been proven by the many factors such as test scores, school climate, and tenure of teachers who stay until retirement and testimonies of students returning to see teachers who have impacted their lives in a positive way. We are concerned with maintaining the positive climate and with the help of parents, staff and students we will continue to be a school of excellence. We have implemented a program that focuses on maintaining a safe environment for all students with our Olweus Bullying Prevention Program but with the watchful eyes and ears of our concerned parents we will continue to keep our students safe. Parts of this article were published a few years ago but are worthwhile repeating for new parents of Dodgen and serve as a reminder to veteran parents.

Recently, in the quarterly update that is sponsored through Ridgeview, there was an article on preventing violence in children and adolescents. The quote at the beginning of the article by Virginia Ross, PH.D was from a writing of George Eliot. In summary, it was about the tendency of adults to trivialize the troubles of youth. The quote is timeless.

What are new are the deadly outbursts of violence in all social and economic strata of our society. This is advice given by mental health professionals, school counselors, teachers, and clergy centers around common themes.

1. Listen to and take seriously the anguish of children and adolescents.
2. Model effective ways of handling anger, resolving conflict and expressing feeling, and practice them with children.
3. Provide structure and clear and consistent limits.
  - a. Take time for shared family rituals
  - b. Set and maintain limits
  - c. Limit kids' access to depictions of violence in the media, including the Internet.
4. Recognize genuine psychiatric difficulties and get appropriate treatment.
5. Most importantly, don't allow kids to have access to guns.

Rev. Theodore Wardlaw, pastor of Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta observes that one of the most helpful factors in enabling children to turn away from violence is their knowledge that some adult other than their parent cares for them.

*Submitted by Lillian Douglas*

## **Heart Screens For Teens**

### **Providing Parents "Peace Of Mind" By Helping To Prevent**

Ultrascan Incorporated is one of the largest medical imaging companies in the southeast and they have joined with Georgia Pediatric Cardiology to create a program called Heart Screens for Teens. This is a mobile program that comes to our school to provide affordable echocardiogram examinations. The purpose of the echocardiogram is to determine whether or not the student has a condition known as Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM) or an enlarged heart. HCM has been determined to be a cause of sudden cardiac death in

otherwise healthy young students, and manifests itself early in life (before the age of 20).



Heart Screens for Teens has conducted these exams for campuses throughout the state. They will offer their services to Dodgen Middle School on Saturday, March 11, 2006 from 9:00

a.m. until 12:00 p.m. (this time will be extended if needed). The cost for the echocardiogram is \$58.00. Go to [www.heartscreensforteens.com](http://www.heartscreensforteens.com) to download the consent form (needed the day of the test), to view a short movie that tells you all about the test, and for any further information that you may need.

The test takes about eight (8) minutes to undergo. In order for the Heart Screens for Teens personnel to plan efficiently for their visit to Dodgen, it will be necessary for you to schedule a time slot for March 11, 2006. To schedule your time slot for the examination please call Cheralee Rater at 770-565-7851.

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## **Helping Your Child Make Health Food Choices... (Ages 11-21)**

### **How can our family eat healthy meals together when we are too busy?**

- Make food preparation and cooking a family activity.
- Eat different meals together. For example, eat breakfast together one day and lunch or dinner the next.
- Buy healthy ready- to-eat foods from the store or healthy take-out.

### **How can I help my teenager get enough Calcium?**

- Serve foods rich in calcium, such as low-fat milk, cheese, yogurt, tofu processed with calcium sulfate, broccoli and collard and turnip greens
- Serve flavored milk, such as chocolate or strawberry
- Use low-fat dairy products in recipes such as in puddings, milkshakes, soups and casseroles
- Serve unusual dairy products such as new flavors of yogurt
- If your child's digestive system can't handle dairy products (lactose intolerant) try these suggestions:
  - Serve lactose-free dairy products, yogurt and aged hard cheeses, such as Cheddar, Colby, Swiss and Parmesan that are low in lactose
  - Give your child lactase tablets before he eats dairy products containing lactose
  - Serve foods, such as orange juice and cereal products, with added calcium (calcium –fortified).
  - If these ideas don't work, talk to a health professional about calcium supplements

### **How can I get my teenager to eat breakfast?**

- Provide foods that are fast and convenient, such as bagels, low-fat granola bars, fruits, 100% fruit juice and yogurt
- Serve foods other than the usual breakfast foods (left over pasta, potatoes, etc)
- Help your teenager get organized in the morning so that he has time to eat breakfast every morning
- Make breakfast the night before
- If your teenager is in a hurry, offer him foods such as fruits or trail mix to eat at school

*\* reprinted from the National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health, Georgetown University*

### Get A Clue Lecture

Get A Clue Lecture Series  
 Brought to you by PTSA's  
 Exceptional Children's Committee  
 Please mark your calendars for  
 two upcoming events in the  
 lecture series to be held in the  
 Dodgen Theater.  
 Register by calling: Cooper  
 Friend Tighe (678) 437-5743

### Parenting Under New Pressures...for Accountability and Responsibility

Tony Levitis, Ph.D  
 Thursday, February 9, 2006, 7-8:30 p.m.

### Unveiling the Underlying Issues of ADHD and How to Deal with Them

Yvonne Pennington, Ph.D  
 Thursday, March 9, 2006, 7-8:30 p.m.

### A Lunch and Learn will not be scheduled in Feb.

February is so short, and our  
 to-do lists are too long!

A small group of Dodgen  
 parents recently enjoyed  
 having Allison Carter,  
 Professional Organizer,  
 share many great ideas and  
 techniques to help us and  
 our students get and stay

organized.

We would love to see a  
 greater number of parents  
 and guardians at our  
 programs.

Please send me your  
 ideas and suggestions for a  
 Lunch and Learn in March  
 and/or April.■

## Charles Schultz Philosophy

The following is the philosophy of Charles Schultz, the creator of the "Peanuts" comic strip. You don't have to actually answer the questions. Just read straight through, and you'll get the point.

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America.
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winner for best actor and actress.
6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

### **How did you do?**

The point is, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday. These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.

Easier?

The lesson: The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They are the ones that care.

"Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It's already tomorrow in Australia." (Charles Schultz)

The annual School Improvement Survey for parents was sent home to randomly selected parents with report cards on Friday, January 13. If you receive one, please complete it and return it to Dodgen as soon as possible. There will be collection boxes at each student entrance and by the front office. Thank you in advance for your contribution towards Dodgen's school improvement.



Dodgen SIP Team  
 Kathy Keeton

Look around the trees at Dodgen and you will see what the Environmental Club has been doing for the birds this winter. We made Pinecone birdfeeders by rolling pinecones in peanut butter and birdseed. Try it at home. it is easy and the birds will love you!

Join us the next time we meet. Just listen for the announcements.

Remember to recycle in your community!



**ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB**



## Websites At Your Fingertips: Be In The Know!

### Dodgen Middle School

<http://www.cobbk12.org/~dodgen>.  
Check out Mr. Snell's Weblog for some great info and photos and then link to PTSA to see what is happening with PTSA. You can also go direct to Dodgen PTSA at <http://dodgenptsa.org>

### Cobb County Schools:

<http://www.cobb.k12.ga.us/>  
Get the 2006-2007 School Calendar  
Hear the latest info from School Board Meetings And much more!

### Georgia PTA

<http://www.georgiapta.org>  
Keep abreast of current state news and legislation that effects our children

### National PTA

<http://pta.org>  
View national initiatives, find information and resources  
You can link to all these sites by visiting Dodgen's website.

### emails for the Dodgen PTSA

President@dodgenptsa.org  
VicePresident@dodgenptsa.org  
Treasurer@dodgenptsa.org

Secretary@dodgenptsa.org  
Newsletter@dodgenptsa.org  
Emessages@dodgenptsa.org

**DODGEN MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**1725 BILL MURDOCK ROAD**  
**MARIETTA, GA 30062**  
**DODGENPTSA.ORG**

Dodgen PTSA is funded by donations only. You have received a donation letter in your child's first day folder. Please take a moment to read the letter and help support vital programs for our students. Thank you to those of you who have already shown your support.

## Upcoming Events

### February

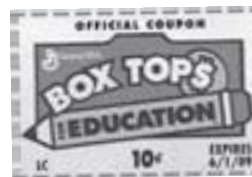
6-10 National Counselor's Week  
7 Clusters meet  
8 Subject Areas Meet  
8 Buddy Pictures Taken  
10 End of 4 1/2 weeks  
10 Performing Arts  
13 PTSA Board Meeting  
15 Progress Reports distributed  
17 Student Holiday  
20 Presidents Day-No School  
23-25 All-State Orchestra/Band  
24 Faculty Meeting

### March

1 Early Release 2:20  
2 All State Chorus  
7-9 Human G & D  
11 Heart Screens for Teens, Health & Safety Fair , 9am-1pm, 20 DLT  
13 PTSA Board Meeting  
14 PTSA General Meeting  
15 Newsletter Deadline  
23 Band Part 4:15-5:15  
25 Spotlight on Pets  
26 Spring Prod Dress Rehearsal  
27 Spring Prod Dress Rehearsal 4-8  
28 Clusters meet  
28-30 Chorus Festival

## Congratulations to Kyla G!

She received a gift certificate at Fuzziwigs. Everyone is doing a great job sending in their Box Tops. Make sure you have put your student's name, homeroom and pod on each individual box top. We have drawn several box tops with no name for prizes. The next drawing will be Monday, February 6th.



### Printer Cartridges and Cell Phones

Dodgen participates in recycling programs for empty printer cartridges and old cell phones. Just drop them in the box located in the Media Center.



## Don't Forget To Support Dodgen



*everychild.one voice.*

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