



DODGEN DATELINE

Dodgen Middle School PTSA
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Nancy Van Slooten and Mary Winther
PTSA Co-Presidents

Jim Snell
Principal

Dodgen's Partners In Education



Kroger @ Shallowford,
Dawn Hawkins



Dr. Mark Johnston,
DMD, MS



The UPS Store @
Merchants Festival,
David Goodwill



everychild.one voice.

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From the PTSA Co-Presidents: Learning Today ... Leading Tomorrow

Our motto this year is "Learning Today . . . Leading Tomorrow" with a goal that we work to involve the students in our PTSA. We are very pleased with the student interest. **David J** (7th grade), with assistance from Terry Clark, has done a fabulous job in letting the students know of volunteer opportunities and having the students sign up for a variety of PTSA committees and functions. We have had over 300 students sign up for committees.

Suzanne Lynch is chairing the Reporters and Advertisers Committee. An enthusiastic group of students met to plan articles that they can write and include in the *Dateline* and other publications. The students are eager to get involved. **Natalie H** (8th grade), with the assistance of Edie Kitchings, has worked on student membership. Their efforts have resulted in over 370 students becoming dues paying members of Dodgen PTSA.

We were delighted with the participation in the Student Highlight Night held in conjunction with our General PTSA meeting. Performers from the band, orchestra, choir, drama club, the spring musical "Guys and Dolls" and an impressive dance routine entertained us. Our students at Dodgen are full of talent. Ice cream, toppings and loads of whip cream were enjoyed to a festive beat provided by the percussion ensemble. Big thanks to Jamie Jeffers and the Arts in Education Committee for putting on such a fun evening.

Our nominations committee was elected at the meeting with Amalie Swan-Johnson, Sandra Hausman, Sandy Rowan, Sue Sanders, Edie Kitchings and Mr. Snell serving on the committee. We are looking for some dedicated parents to serve as officers for the 2007-08 school year . Please contact one of the committee members or e-mail vicepresident@dodgenptsa.org if you are interested in serving as an officer next year. We will also be in need of many chairs and co-chairs of the various PTSA committees. Please contact Nancy Van Slooten at president@dodgenptsa.org if you are interested in chairing a PTSA committee next year. We would love to get some new perspectives and ideas by having new people on the PTSA board.

We have a wonderful school, teachers, administration, and great parents that really care about our students and their education and development. We are happy to have our students getting involved in the PTSA

We are grateful for all of you,
Nancy Van Slooten and Mary Winther
PTSA Co-presidents

We Need Doctor's Notes!

Cobb County requires all schools to collect notes on doctor's stationary from all children missing school for doctor's appointments. Please ask your doctor, dentist, orthodontist or other health care professional for a note each time you go and turn it in to the front office! Thank you for helping us to comply with this new rule.

Dodgen Clinic Weblog

Mary Ortlund, our school nurse, created a weblog - http://dodgenms.typepad.com/dodgen_ms_clinic/. The weblog has links to forms you will need if you want to send medicine to school for your child. It also lists helpful information about clinic hours, types of illnesses and how the clinic will treat illnesses and injuries. A quick way to reach this weblog is to access the Faculty page of the Dodgen Middle School website and click on Mary Ortlund. This will pop up another page with a link to the clinic weblog.

Can We Reach You?

Have you changed jobs, changed your cell phone number or home phone number? If any contact information has changed since last spring, please make sure to send a note or email to MJ Perkins - MJ.Perkins@cobbk12.org, in the front office so we can update your records. This can be very important if your child becomes sick at school and we need to contact you!

Pope High School Orientation

An orientation for parents of rising ninth graders for 2007-08 at Pope High School will be held on **May 15, 7:00-8:00pm in the Pope Gymnasium**. If you were not able to attend the Pope Information Meeting in December, 2006, you can access the Pope High School PowerPoint presentation given to parents by Pope Assistant Principal Andy Bristow and Lead Counselor Jane Ledbetter on Mrs. Burgess' blog: http://dodgenms.typepad.com/burgess_bulletin/. Block scheduling and other information about Pope can be found in this presentation.

Parents should mark their calendars with the following dates:

March 5		Students given Pope registration materials
March 8	7:00pm-8:00pm	Parents meet with department chairs at Pope
March 9	8:30am-3:30pm	Parents meet with counselors at Dodgen (by appointment)
March 12		Registration materials must be returned to Dodgen
May 15	7:00pm-8:00pm	Orientation at Pope High School

Walton High School Orientation

An orientation for parents of rising ninth graders for 2007-08 will be held in the Walton High School Gym at **7:00pm on Tuesday, March 13**. The program will provide information about learning opportunities at Walton, registration, the high school advisory program, and extracurricular activities. Department chairpersons, administrators, counselors, and some teachers will be available to answer questions pertaining to the high school program. This meeting is for *parents only*. We welcome you to arrive on campus beginning at 6:45pm to see the facility and to view exhibits in the lobby of the gym and in hallways. We are looking forward to you becoming a part of Walton High School and hope you will be able to attend this informative meeting.

Attention Target Parents - there will be a special meeting for parents of rising ninth grade students currently enrolled in the Target program on Tuesday, March 13 prior to the orientation meeting. We will meet from 6:15-6:45pm in Walton's Media Center. Teachers from the Accelerated Learning Program will advise parents on course selection and registration for gifted students.

NOTE: Parents of Private School students interested in attending Walton are invited to attend the orientation program above. Should you then decide to attend Walton High School, registration for private school students will be held on Tuesday, March 27, in the Walton Guidance Office. Students with last names beginning with A-I should arrive at 9:30am, J-R at 10:30, and S-Z at 11:30. Complete registration requirements for private school students can be found on the Guidance blog at www.waltonhigh.typepad.com/guidance.

From the Principal:

Parents,

The following letter went home with progress reports several weeks ago. It is also posted on my web log:

http://dodgenms.typepad.com/notes_from_mr_snells_offi/

Your child will be taking the Criterion Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) in the spring of 2007 in the areas of reading, language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. These tests will be based on the curriculum (Georgia Performance Standards or Quality Core Curriculum) your child is being taught at school each day. It is important for your child to attend school each day and complete assignments to learn the required curriculum. **All students in grade eight must pass both the reading and math portions of the test to advance to high school.**

This year, the standards in Reading/English/Language, Sixth Grade Mathematics, and Sixth and Seventh Grade Science are based on new Georgia Performance Standards and the tests in 2007 will reflect changes in the curriculum. The teachers at our school are working very hard to be sure students are taught all the standards and are constantly assessing them so they will be ready for the spring tests. Each middle school in Cobb County offers parent conferences to discuss the progress of your child and to provide suggestions about ways to help your child at home.

The Georgia State Department of Education has developed an online assessment system containing practice tests your child can take at home if he/she has access to the internet. There is no charge for the assessments and you can monitor your child's progress easily. The practice tests are based on the skills and knowledge that will be tested this spring and test items are presented in the same format that students will see on the actual test. Students may take the student tests as many times as they wish, whenever they wish. Student test results do not affect a student's grade. In fact, student test results are not automatically recorded, although a student may choose to save a result and/or send a result to his or her teacher.

The online assessment system requires Internet Explorer 5.5-6.0 or Netscape 4.5-4.78 to run. The program uses a browser checker that will notify you if your browser is not compatible with the online assessment system. If you receive an error message from your browser, you will need to convert to a browser that is supported by the online assessment system for the program to work properly.

Beginning now, your child can access practice tests in the following way:

1. Go to <http://www.georgiaoas.org>
2. Login with the student's Georgia Test identification number. Students have been given their ten digit test ID number.
3. The password is **education**.
4. The **Student Welcome Page** will appear and your child can click **Student Tests**.
5. Choose the subject area from the list of available subjects.
6. Select the test from the list.
7. Click the **Take the Test** button. The test will begin.
8. Once the test has been completed, click the **Grade My Test** button at the bottom of the page; a pop-up window will display. Click **OK**.
9. The results of the student's test will display. You can either save or discard the results.
10. Click on **Return Home** if finished or click on a test option button if you want to take another test.
11. Click the **Logout** button when you are finished working in the online assessment system.

We hope this resource will be helpful to you throughout the year. If you have any questions concerning your child's progress, contact his/her teacher.

Thank you,
Jim Snell

PTSA Allocates Fund to Improve Instruction

The Appropriations Committee reviewed many applications from staff and PTSA members to fund items to improve instruction at Dodgen. The following items totaling more than \$7,000 were approved to be purchased with PTSA funds:

- K'nex Simple Machine Kit for Technology Classes - \$284
- 2 LCD ceiling mounted projectors with electrical installation for the ALT lab and the 7th grade lab - \$5,183
- 2 Compact Balance Scales for Science Olympiad - \$141
- 1 Book for 6th grade Language Arts Teachers titled: *Blowing Away State Writing Assessment Test* \$20
- Quik Fit for Kids Strength Training Kit for Health and P.E. classes - \$221
- Table Tennis Table for P.E. classes - \$482
- 30 books for 7th grade Social Studies titled: *Goodbye Vietnam* - \$299
- 35 books for 8th grade Social Studies titled: *Georgia Experience* - \$453

If you have any questions about these purchases, please contact Terri Stanley, Appropriations Committee Chair, at terristanley@bellsouth.net. The other members of the committee are Nancy Van Slooten, Donna Gillen, Susan Peterson, James Snell, and Jane Burgess.

We are looking for another parent to join this group. This committee meets once every nine weeks to evaluate the financial and educational needs of the staff and students at Dodgen. If you are interested, contact Terri Stanley.

Teen Job and Community Service Fair

The Eastern Cobb County Council PTA proudly presents the first annual Teen Job/Community Service Fair at the Northeast YMCA on Saturday, March 10 from 11:00am-3:00pm. This is a great opportunity for teens to secure summer employment or increase their community service hours.

Saturday, March 10
11:00am-3:00pm
Northeast Cobb YMCA
3010 Johnson Ferry Road

For more information, contact Pat Giuliani (404-409-9112) or pat.giuliani@parentcorps.org.

Eastern Cobb County Council
PTA
everychild.onevoice.

Addictions in Young People

Wednesday, March 28
10:00-11:30am
Peachford Hospital
Free Parenting Program



Does your child show these warning signs?

•Increased irritability •Sleep/eating changes, •Depression, •Hyperactivity, •Withdrawal •Explosive episodes •Apathetic attitude •Attention problems •Suicidal thoughts/gestures •Declining school performance •Severe/sudden mood swings

Based on SAMSHA's National Survey on Drug Use and Health in 2004, persons aged 12 or older who lived in metropolitan areas were more likely to abuse or be dependent on alcohol or an illicit drug than those living in non-metropolitan areas.

Please join us at Peachford Hospital to learn more about helping your child cope with Addiction.

Helpful websites:
<http://www.samsha.gov>
<http://www.teen-anon.com>
<http://www.drugree.org>

For more information, contact Loren Eischeld - jaelce@aol.com.

Relay for Life®

The Dodgen Middle School Relay for Life® team is now forming! We have lots of fun activities planned. We are also looking for more team members. Relay for Life® is an over-night event to bring together folks that have been touched by cancer and to raise funds to help the American Cancer Society. During the event, teams will gather at Jim R. Miller Park to walk or run laps around the track. Each team tries to keep at least one member on the track at all times. Won't you consider joining us or at least participating in one of our activities? Sue Klodnicki (Susan.Klodnicki@cobbk12.org) is our team captain. Our team goal is \$15,000. With your help, we can get there!

Activities:

- *Blooms for a Cure*: Purchase a flower bulb for \$1. Paper flowers with honorees names are "planted" on the garden wall near the cafeteria. Real flower bulbs will be planted on Dodgen grounds representing each \$1 contributed.
- *County-wide Silent Auction. Thursday, March 29 6:00-8:00pm at Roswell Street Baptist Church.* Tickets are \$5.00 in advance or \$7 at the door. We are looking for donations to be auctioned and/or those who would like to purchase tickets.
- Dodgen's own silent auction, "*Time Out with a Teacher*" (coming soon). Students will bid for recreational time with their favorite teachers, while supporting a good cause.
- *Ongoing donations*: Show your support by clicking on www.cobbrelay.org and contributing to Dodgen's team. Students may create their own accounts, allowing them to email friends and relatives to help support the team.
- *Student Olympic Smoothie Sale*: Students will be able to buy a large smoothie for \$3.50 in advance. The smoothies will be delivered to them at the stadium on their designated field day after the events. Sales will begin week of April 23.
- *Monogrammed Bag sales.* \$15. (coming soon).
- *The Event*: May 11-12 at Jim R. Miller Park. More details later.

Walton PTSA to Host Walton 101 Classes

Once again the Walton PTSA will be hosting Walton 101 classes for all incoming ninth grade parents. During this class you will find out how to check your child out early or how to write the note for tardiness, you'll find out what WEB is and how your child can utilize their time on those WEB days, you'll also find out about Freshmen Orientation, summer reading books, what and how your child can exempt a final and much more. Clear your calendar and plan on attending one of the three classes listed below. All classes are held at the Lower Roswell Road Government Building across from Mt. Bethel Church. No RSVP is needed just bring pen and paper and be ready to get informed.

Monday, April 23 9:30am
Tuesday, April 24 6:30pm
Friday, April 27 12:30pm

Depending on questions and answers, these classes normally run two hours long but it is two hours worth your time. We look forward to seeing you in April. Please tell your friends and mark your calendar today!

Pat Giuliani (404-409-9112) Pat.Giuliani@parentcorps.org

Student Page (Written by Students)

This year, the PTSA is focusing on involving students wherever possible to help them to become our leaders of tomorrow. The student writers are increasing in number and are showing real enthusiasm. If you would like to join the committee, please contact Suzanne Lynch - suzanne.lynch@comcast.net, or **Bennett Welch, student chair**.

Introducing “Dear Maggie”

Have you had problems or questions, but didn't really want to go to the counselor? We want to help! In next month's *Dodgen Dateline*, we are going to have a “Dear Maggie” advice column. You can email your questions to dearmaggie@dodgenptsa.org or you can place them in the “Dear Maggie” box in the front office. We will choose a few and publish the questions with replies written by a panel of students each month.

Teacher Spotlight

Mrs. Averett

By: Bennett W (6th grade)

Mrs. Averett teaches sixth grade language arts and reading. Mrs. Averett was chosen as she encourages her students to resist peer pressure and provides them with examples of when she was able to do so.

Born: January 10

College: University of Florida

Married: January 8, 1984, in Gainesville, Florida

Favorite Football Team: University of Florida Gators

Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Breyers® Vanilla

Favorite Color: Green

Favorite Holiday: Thanksgiving

Favorite Movie: *Sound of Music*

Favorite Book: *Tale of Two Cities*

What she likes to do in her spare time: play tennis / grade papers

Dodgen Spring Production

March 15, 16 and 17

By: Evan A (6th grade)



Prepare to be dazzled by the first BROADWAY SHOW to hit the Dodgen Stage. *Guys and Dolls*, the acclaimed musical filled with gamblers and their girlfriends, will be performed on **March 15, 16 and 17 at 7:00pm in the Dodgen Theatre.**

Tickets are only \$6 and will go on sale in each pod before school and study hall beginning March 1. Any remaining seats will be sold at the door before the performances (but we expect a packed house).

Plan a fun night out with some of your friends and come see this hilarious and fantastic show!

In Between the Lines

By: Bennett W (6th grade)

This month's book is *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. This superb book was written by C.S. Lewis, also known as Clive Staples Lewis. This book is about Lucy, Edmund, Susan, and Peter. The children must leave London and move to their uncle's house in the country to avoid the air raids during World War II. The four children explore their new home and find a wardrobe. While everyone else leaves the room, Lucy stays behind to check out the wardrobe, which is an old British closet. When she checks out the inside of the wardrobe, she comes into a magical world called Narnia, which has a 100 year winter spell cast by Jadis, the White Witch. What will happen next?

To find out more, check out the book from our school library and read it!

The Dance

By: A.J. C (7th grade)

On February 15, Dodgen held its official “Valentines Day Dance,” the one and only dance of the year for all grade levels. Pizza, candy and smoothies were made available at a modest price, while D.J. Tim played all the latest songs. This atmosphere was the perfect opportunity for mingling amongst grade levels.

The dance was spiced up with give-a-ways and group dances such as the cha-cha and the Y-M-C-A. One student even stated it was the best dance he has ever been to in his life. If you missed it, shame on you.

Whose Night Is It Anyway?

The first night designed JUST for students is almost here! Mark your calendars for a night of fabulous food, comedy and more fun than you've ever had at school!

**Friday, April 13
6:45-9:00pm
Dodgen Cafeteria and Theatre**

You will be served an awesome dinner (not just the same old pizza...) BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE! - You'll also get to see and be part of a terrific comedy team show! You'll go home with a belly ache from all the laughs you'll share at this very special night just for you!

Tickets are only \$5 and will go on sale in mid-March. Seating is limited, so plan ahead and buy your tickets as soon as they go on sale.

It's going to be a blast!

For you would like to volunteer to help or would like more information, contact Sally Goldberg (770-650-9287) - rbgsgg@bellsouth.net.

Science Olympiad

The Dodgen Science Olympiad Team competed in the Regional Competition at Georgia State University on February 24. The top teams from our region and from the other regions in our state will continue on to the State Competition at Augusta State University in March. The thirty students who made our team at the beginning of the school year have been training weekly with parent coaches and teachers for their individual events. It's amazing to see how these students grow in their knowledge and application of Science. We welcome all students to consider trying-out for our team next September and parents, please consider the impact you can have on your student and three to four others by coaching an event. This is a wonderful way to get involved!

Eighth Grade Dance

The Eighth Grade Dance Committee is planning a fabulous party on the evening of May 4 for all eighth grade students. More information and details will be sent home with students in March. If you would like to help or have questions, please contact Kathy Miller - KMMiLL4072@bellsouth.net

Dodgen TV

Dodgen TV, also known as DTV, is basically a news broadcast about what is happening in our lovely school of Dodgen. This television broadcast is usually played once a week. TV is a great way to build self confidence and is early training if you are interested in TV related occupations. Dodgen TV is full of fun and excitement. It is usually held in the Media Center at 8:15am on Thursdays. You may need a pass. There are many little jobs and roles required to produce Dodgen TV:

- Mixer
- Camera person
- Anchor
- Director
- Manager/Floor Manager

If you are interested in any of these positions at Dodgen TV, ask Mrs. Thompson or Mrs. Klodnicki. Sign up today!

Academic Bowl News

Our new sixth grade students will compete in a nationwide contest via computer during the first week in March. It will take a while to get the results back. We are taking a sixth, seventh, and eighth grade team to the Chattahoochie Tournament in Alpharetta on March 10.

Geography Bee Results

Dodgen participated in the National Geographic Geography Bee. Each Social Studies class participated in a seven round qualifying event. The winner from each class was then invited to the school wide competition. Questions began about National Parks and continued into random geography questions. The final question was: What country in West Africa is a member of OPEC and the largest oil producing country in Africa? Answer: Nigeria

Congratulations to our top three finishers!

- 1st place - **Connor G** - 8th grade
2nd place - **Connor K** - 6th grade
3rd place - **Chris G** - 6th grade

Dates to Remember

March 2	Chess Club 8:15am, Media Center
March 7	Early Release 2:15pm
March 9	Chess Club 8:15am, Media Center
March 10	Teen Job & Community Service Fair, 11:00am-3:00pm, Northeast YMCA
March 11	Daylight Savings Begins, Set Clocks Forward One Hour
March 13	Dodgen Night at Mama Fu's 4:00-8:00pm Walton Orientation 7:00pm, Walton Gym
March 14	PTSA Board Meeting 9:30am
March 15-17	Spring Musical 7:00pm, Dodgen Theatre
March 15	End of 9 week grading period <i>Dodgen Dateline</i> Deadline
March 16	Chess Club 8:15am Media Center
March 19	Dodgen Day at Café de Paris
March 21	Report Cards Distributed
March 23	Chess Club 8:15am Media Center
March 27	Book Club Meeting 7:00pm Borders Cafe
March 28	Addictions in Young People 10:00am, Peachford Hospital
March 30	<i>Dodgen Dateline</i> Distribution
April 13	Whose Night Is It Anyway? 6:45pm Dodgen
April 23, 24, 27	Walton 101 (see page 5)
May 15	Pope Parent Orientation 7:00pm, Pope Gym

Who is the Biggest Loser?

Approximately 18 teachers participated in the Dodgen Biggest Loser contest lasting approximately six weeks. So far, about 60 pounds have been lost! Each teacher contributed \$5 dollars. The participant losing the most weight (according to percentage) will take home the prize money. The final weigh in was on February 26, too late for us to announce the winner her. A new Biggest Loser competition will begin in March. Parent volunteers are encouraged to participate. Contact Renee Atwood at renee.atwood@cobbk12.org for details.

"To walk a mile begins with a single step." - Anonymous

Character Education

Commitment

The obligation or pledge to carry out some action or to support some policy or person.

March 12 - Dedication/Loyalty
Sense of commitment and duty.

March 19 - Respect for Environment*
The conservation and care of your surroundings and planet earth.

March 26 - Motivation
The desire to move towards a goal.

April 9 - Leadership
The ability to take on every task with a sense of purpose and caring for those around them.

*Indicates state mandated character trait.

Walton Band Garage Sale

Saturday, March 3
Located in Walton High School Gym
8:00am - 3:00pm

Pick up some great deals at the 15th Annual Walton Band Garage Sale. Please tell your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers about this huge day benefiting Walton's band program!

Daylight Saving Time Begins March 11!

Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour on Sunday, March 11.

Beginning this year, DST will begin on the second Sunday in March and end the first Sunday in November. Please also be aware that many automated programs may not be ready for this change; clocks and computers may be off one hour until April if not manually corrected.

Email your "news" to newsletter@dodgenptsa.org before noon on **March 15** to have it included in the next edition of the *Dateline*!

Don't Forget to Support Dodgen PTSA



Please recycle your old cell phones and used printer cartridges in the bin in the media center.

