



# DUMBARTON MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*Published by the Dumbarton Middle School PTSA*

## Dumbarton Middle School

301 Dumbarton Road Baltimore, Maryland 21212

410-887-3176

*A National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence*

*Nancy Fink, Principal*

**October 2009**

### *From the Principal's Desk...*

Welcome back! That is certainly the phrase of this time of the year. First, we welcomed the teachers new to Dumbarton:

**Susan Collins**, a teacher transferring from Hereford Middle, is beginning her eighteenth year and will be teaching grade 6 language arts on the SILVER team.

**Joseph Lin**, who is moving from McCormick Elementary is teaching Science 6 on the SILVER team.

**Kristen Cordle** is beginning her teaching career here at DMS having moved from Michigan and is teaching grade 7 language arts on the GREEN team.

**Stephanie Kerns** is changing her role from parent to para-educator working with the science department.

Mrs. Seniura, Mr. Bolger, and I were excited to see all the returning refreshed and relaxed teachers. We are all ready for the year.

The next "Welcome...for the first time" was to our sixth graders and their parents who arrived on Friday, August 28, for their morning orientation. The year was off to a great start when so many students and parents filled the auditorium to meet their teachers, walk through their schedules, and conquer the dreaded lock and locker. Supportive parents really set the tone for the year, and we hope that we have allayed some of the fears that the children and the adults might have had.

On August 31 it was "Welcome Back" for all the students. We began the year with 915 students, having been staffed for 976. Everyone is so glad to see the new windows and blinds that are completed in many classrooms and soon to be completed in the rest of the building.

As you would expect of the school, the teachers, and the students, Dumbarton made adequate yearly progress (AYP) in the 2009 testing completed in March. All subgroups—ethnic groups, special education, ESOL, and free/reduced lunch students—performed well. We have children with whom we will continue to work—to become PROFICIENT and ADVANCED. The staff worked on our School Improvement Plan to identify differentiation and reading in the content area strategies that are key to improving the education for all children.

So...we have a lot to congratulate ourselves for and another year to keep doing what parents have always asked us to do—teach their children the academic and cognitive skills that make them successful in their learning. Whether a child is in art, music, a world language, science, or math, he/she is challenged to go beyond and is helped to reach the highest goals. Our teachers are highly prepared and very competent. They make things happen.

We look forward to a great year!

Nancy Fink, Principal

### **October Calendar**

#### **3 Magnet Programs**

##### **Showcase**

Crown Plaza Hotel

2:00 – 4:00 P.M.

#### **5 Celebration of DMS art**

students' installation at

Hollins Market , 4:00 P.M.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Ice-Cream Social**

Cafeteria, 6:30 – 8:00 P.M.

#### **8 Interims due**

#### **12 Interims distributed**

**Faculty Meeting** 3:15 P.M.

#### **PTSA Executive Board**

7:00 P.M.

#### **13 Parent Conference**

**Registration:** Walk-in

7:00-8:30 A.M.; Call-in

9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

#### **14 Parent Conference Night**

6:30-8:30 P.M.

#### **15 Activity Night 7 - 9:00 P.M.**

#### **16 School Closed -- MSTA**

Conference

#### **22 November newsletter submissions due**

#### **26 SIT Meeting 3:15 P.M.**

#### **27,28 Health Fair, cafeteria Period 1**

#### **29 BCPS Strategic Planning**

**Meeting, 5:00 – 9:00 P.M.**

## From the Math Department...

*Special congratulations* go out to Mrs. Belman, Mrs. Beugel, Mr. Distefano, Mrs. Hostetler, Mr. Kwiatkowski, Ms. Martin, Mr. Rudie, Mr. Russell, Ms. Sharbonda, Mr. Sievers, and Mrs. Tollison, as well as Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Waddail, Mrs. Rinaudo, Mrs. Brillon, Mrs. Widney for their excellent contributions towards the 100% passing rate of last year's algebra students on the High School Assessment! The only other time this was previously achieved in Baltimore County was three years ago by...Dumbarton Middle School!

*To add to those congratulations*, warm applause goes to Emily Ciaccio and Emma Casehart for being two of the six in all of Baltimore County Middle Schools to earn a perfect score of 650 on the High School Assessment! Way to go Emily and Emma!

### **“Have you ever had a problem you couldn't SOLVE?”**

“Many of our students are learning this acronym in order to solve the confounded riddles of word problems. The students are required to **Study** the problem to identify the key facts, **Organize** those key facts, **Line up** a plan of attack, **Verify** the plan with action, and finally **Examine** the results. As your child works on math, feel free to challenge their ability to **SOLVE** the problems....or maybe even your own!”

BCPS recently modified their homepage at [www.bcps.org](http://www.bcps.org). Not only does the website include several tips for parents, but within the “Highlights” section, you can surf a link entitled “Articulated Instruction Module”. Once there, parents can choose Math (or any subject), the appropriate secondary course, and objectives format. Doing so will offer you greater knowledge about the content your child is learning, broken down to specific goals of success.

## *Thank you, Friends of the Library!*

Thank you to the families of the following Dumbarton students for their generous contributions to the Friends of the Library campaign: Hannah Aberle; Tristan Andrews; Graham Bishai; Paige Burkett; Nicholas Chung; Justin Allen Coe; Tiffany Cole; Maria Cuestas; Mac Cunningham; Caitlin Burke; Sophia Darwin; Thomas Davlin; James De Santis; Caroline Deignan; Adrienne Emery; Abram Foster; Christopher Fraker; Faith Fritz; Shawn Gaines; Katya Gavin; Emily Eastman; Cassondra Herman; Emma Jablow; Lila Karp; Colin King; Aidan Kirby; Stephen Kozak; Annie Lacher; Kira Luring; Kelly Makowske; Emily Miller; Dennis Morozov; Christy Nymick; Ashley Ratliff; Akil Richardson; Ian Robinson; John Rodman; Noah Schweitzer; Anna Shors; Anna Sillars; Rylee Simmons; Charles Simon; Ethan Sleeman; Avery Smith; Langley Randall; Ben Starkey; Brendan Stuiber; Isabella Teeter; Brian Weber; Rachel Weeks; Jackson Wikstrom; Myles Willard; Michael Williams; and Anna Yung.

Your support helps to keep the library current and dynamic. Thank you!

Susan Donkar, Dumbarton Library/Media Specialist

### **BCPL Summer Reading a Success!!**

Congratulations to almost 150 Dumbarton students who successfully completed the BCPL Summer Reading Program. Students who participated are being recognized by a proclamation on the Dumbarton library door.

### **Interested in BCPS Magnet Programs?**

Your child has received a presentation on the Magnet School Program Process and a copy of the Magnet School Program brochure which includes the application. On October 3, 2009, the Elementary, Middle and High Schools will showcase their Magnet Programs at the Crown Plaza Hotel, from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. This information is located on the back of the brochure along with several Open House dates. The deadline for applications is **November 30, 2009**. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Dixon in the Guidance Office at 410-887-5654, or at [tdixon@bcps.org](mailto:tdixon@bcps.org).

## GT News

Dumbarton Middle School offers Gifted and Talented programs in Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies at all grade levels. There is a GT reading program in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and a GT Art program in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

If you are interested in investigating whether the GT curriculum is appropriate for your child, the first step is to talk to your child's teacher. If you decide to pursue consideration for GT classes, please be aware of the following process:

- Students are required to submit an application with work samples.
- The parent also submits input.
- The GT Committee collects data including grades, test scores and teacher input.
- All of this information is considered when making a decision regarding a student's placement in a GT class.
- The parent and student are informed by letter of the GT Committee's decision.

Submitting the application one or two weeks prior to the committee meeting assures there will be time to identify and collect any missing data. The GT Committee meets near the end of each quarter.

For further information or questions please contact Holly Martin [gmartin3@bcps.org](mailto:gmartin3@bcps.org) or Lane Muth, [lmuth@bcps.org](mailto:lmuth@bcps.org).

### *From the PTSA...*

**On behalf of the Dumbarton PTSA, welcome to the new school year !** We hope that things are getting underway smoothly for all of you, and we are looking forward to a great year of supporting and enhancing the educational and social environment at Dumbarton.

**Our membership drive is off to a great start!** If you have not already done so, please join the PTSA by sending your membership dues in today. Dues are only \$6.00 per member. We encourage all adults in each household to join -- parents, grandparents, or guardians. Questions concerning PTSA membership may be directed to Laura Templeton, our Membership Chair, at [lgtempleton@gmail.com](mailto:lgtempleton@gmail.com).

**Please also send in your PTSA Contribution, if you have not already done so! With your tax-deductible contributions, the PTSA provides the funding for many important enhancements to your child's education.**

Already this year, at our first meeting in September, we funded the purchase of new microscopes for all of the Dumbarton science labs. We also purchased new materials for the math department. As we do not hold any fundraisers during the year, the PTSA depends on your generosity toward our Contributions Campaign to make important purchases such as these possible. We suggest a donation of \$50 for every child that you have in the school -- that's only \$5 per month! -- but contributions in any amount will be appreciated and put to good use. Questions about the Contributions Campaign may be directed to Linda Lehmann, our Contributions Chair, at [blehmann@mac.com](mailto:blehmann@mac.com).

**Interested in volunteering?** Committee chairs have now received a list of names from the volunteer sheets that you filled out from the summer mailing. If you did not submit a sign-up sheet and would like to get involved, we'd love to have your help! Please contact Kerry DeSantis at [kerry.desantis@all.net](mailto:kerry.desantis@all.net) to find out about our many volunteer opportunities.

**The year is off to a great start!** Thanks for being part of the Dumbarton community!



## ***Congratulations, Newly-Elected SGA Officers!***

**The Student Government Association elections took place on Friday, September 25, following the schoolwide Speech and Debate Assembly held on Thursday.**

**Here are the results:**

**Secretary of Correspondence - Hope Lockwood** with 74% of the vote.

**Treasurer - Imani Canty-Henderson** with 58% of the vote.

**Historian - Francesca Whitehurst and Anna Palmer** tied with 34% of the vote.

**Vice President - Amara Majeed** with 38% of the vote.

**President - Ben Bjork** with 52% of the vote.

**The Student Government Association would like to thank all students for their commitment to the school as they campaigned for office.**



### ***Check Out the School Store!***

Are you in need of school supplies like notebook paper, graph paper, composition books, pens, pencils, grips, erasers, pencil lead refills, highlighters, dividers, protractors, compasses, sketch books, and music supplies? Then stop by the school store with your small bills and loose change so that you can be prepared for your classes. Don't forget your Dumbarton flip-flops for only \$13. The school store, located next to the cafeteria, is open daily from 7:50 to 8:10 A.M.

### **DMS Art Students Beautify Baltimore**

After five month of hard work and dedication, Mr. Jones' ceramics club students have completed an 8x6 ft ceramic tile mural (that's about 176 tiles!) for the outside of the Hollin Market located next to downtown Baltimore. It is a permanent installation adorning the exterior of the market along with murals from other city and county schools. There will be a ceremony to celebrate the students' achievement on **October 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm** at the site. We look forward to having Rep. Elijah E. Cummings and the press join us on this special day. Please come out to support the young artists who have given such generous amounts of time and energy to help beautify Baltimore City's neighborhoods while emphasizing its great history through art!

### **Day of the Dead Celebration at the Walters Art Museum**

**November 01**  
12:00 PM -  
03:00 PM

El Día de los Muertos  
Fecha: Domingo,  
1 de Noviembre

Hora : 12.00-15.00  
Sitio : Patio de Esculturas  
Walters Art Museum

Come to the Walters Art Museum to celebrate The Day of the Dead, a jovial Mexican holiday that commemorates deceased loved ones. Visitors can enjoy traditional Mexican dance performances by Bailes de Mi Tierra, a live mariachi band, food, and art projects. Starting Wednesday, October 28, the museum will host a community altar in the Renaissance Sculpture Court and members of the public are encouraged to bring items in honor of loved ones who have passed away.

Vengan a celebrar el Día de los Muertos en el Walters Art Museum con danza mexicana tradicional por el grupo Bailes de mi tierra, una banda de mariachi, comida y juegos de manualidades para los niños. Comienza el Miércoles el 28 de Octubre, el museo contará con un altar y toda la comunidad está invitada a traer ofrendas en honor a seres queridos que hayan fallecido.

Para más información, visite nuestra página web [www.thewalters.org](http://www.thewalters.org) o llámenos al 410-547-9000, ext. 323  
For more information, email [landerson@thewalters.org](mailto:landerson@thewalters.org) or call 410-547-9000 ext. 323

## *From the Health Suite...*

Stopping the spread of germs is a top priority. Discuss with your students important ways to remain healthy.

Prevention is key. Wash hands with soap and water. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you sneeze or cough or do it in your sleeve. Discard the tissue and wash your hands immediately. Do not share food, drinks or personal items. Stay home if you are sick with flu-like symptoms.

A guide to Flu vs. Colds is provided below. Students with fevers over 100° F should stay home until they are fever-free, without the use of medications, for 24 hours. Students with the common cold can be sent to school but please remember that we DO NOT give out cold medication. Discuss with your primary care provider what non-drowsy cold medication is best for your child. Send them with tissues and a water bottle. Cough drops from home are acceptable provided your student does not share these with others.

## Is it Influenza or a Cold?

Symptoms	Cold	Flu
Fever	Rare	Usually; high; last 3-4 days
Headache	Rare	Common
General Aches, Pains	Slight	Usual; often severe
Fatigue, Weakness	Sometimes	Usual; can last up to 2 -3 weeks
Extreme Exhaustion	Never	Usual; at the start
Stuffy nose/sneezing	Common	Sometimes
Sore Throat	Common	Sometimes
Chest Discomfort, Cough	Mild to moderate; hacking cough	Common; can become severe

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***The 2009-2010 DMS School Directory is on its way! Pre-ordered copies of the directory will be distributed in homerooms the week of October 5. There will be a limited number of copies available for purchase by those who did not pre-order.***