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# BULLDOG BULLETIN

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NOVEMBER, 2009 – A MESSAGE FROM MR. TRANT

## Internet and Cell Phone Safety

On October 22, the school and the Stafford County Sheriff's Department sponsored an internet safety program for our Dixon-Smith parents. The presentations given by Detective Wells, Deputy Burgess, and Mrs. Donadi, Counselor, were both informative and alarming. We all went away with new knowledge of how vulnerable our children can be while using the internet, as well as with a deeper understanding of some of the legal ramifications of improper internet and cell phone usage. Bottom line. . . Monitor what your children are doing on the internet and with their cell phones at all times. There are software programs and other means to help you do this. If you have any questions or need assistance, please give the counseling department or me a call.

In November, we will be doing a similar age appropriate program for all of our 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The two days of presentations through health classes will again be supported by the Stafford County Sheriff's Department and First Sergeant Nancy Morin. On behalf of our entire population, I extend my sincere thanks for their help in insuring that we continue to educate our community regarding these matters for the safety of all.

## Parent/Teacher Conference Night

Our first parent/teacher conference night will be held during the evening of November 2 and the morning of November 3, 2009. A letter from your child's teaching team went home during the week of October 26 with scheduling information. ***Conferences are scheduled on a first come, first serve basis.*** With each teacher having more than 100 students each day, it is impossible to hold conferences with all parents on these occasions. I apologize in advance, but sometimes there truly is not enough time in the day. I remind you that our teachers do give up their planning time to meet with parents throughout the year. Just give us a call!

## For Your Information

Please keep a close eye on the school calendar during the coming months as schedules tend to get busy during the holiday season. A good way to stay informed is through our calendar of events in this newsletter and through our school's web page. Just click the calendar on the Dixon-Smith home page. Remember, our web page address is [www.dixonsmith.org](http://www.dixonsmith.org).

Our winter sports seasons begin soon with wrestling and boy's basketball tryouts in November.

**Reminder: No student is allowed to tryout for a team if they do not have the VHSL Parent Consent form filled out and a current physical. We can make no exceptions to this regulation.**

The Dixon-Smith PTO supports us on a daily basis in one way or another. My sincere thanks to everyone who volunteers, donates, supervises, supports our fundraisers, etc. We couldn't do this without you! Please take a look at the PTO page within this newsletter for upcoming events and information.

Have a great November! The students will be off on November 3 for Election Day, November 11 for Veteran's Day, and November 25, 26, and 27 for Thanksgiving.

Enjoy!

*Stephen L. Trant*

# PTO Update

A lot has been going on at our school! The DSMS PTO has approved its 2009-2010 Budget. We currently have 223 PTO members! Thanks to Mr. Trant and the staff of DSMS for their great support with our membership drive. The Fall Attractions Fundraiser has concluded with great success. Apparel orders were delivered in mid-October.

We currently have 176 people signed up for the Giant Bonus Bucks program. Only one other school in Stafford County has this many people enrolled in Bonus Bucks. Way to go Bulldogs!! If you have not signed up for the Giant Bonus Bucks program, visit their website at <http://www.giantfood.com/aplus> or register your card at the store. Dixon-Smith Middle School's designation number is #05302.

Please note that DSMS participates in the Dazz-Cycle program which recycles inkjet and laser cartridges and cell phones. Please collect them from work, home, friends and neighbors and send them in to school in a Ziploc bag or wrapped in cellophane to prevent leakage. For more information on the program, visit <http://www.dazz-cycle.com>. If you have a business and would like to serve as a collection point for recycled items, please contact Susan Morgan at [bsjasmorgan@verizon.net](mailto:bsjasmorgan@verizon.net).

DSMS also participates in General Mills Boxtops for Education program. Register at: <https://www.boxtops4education.com>. Many times a year Boxtops has a button to click that registers free Boxtops for our school, once you register...and it's free!! There is a collection box for the Boxtops you collect from products in the school office.

The school dances that were held in early October were a fun time for everyone involved. Thank you to all the PTO volunteers who helped man the concessions area. The PTO was proud to assist the staff of DSMS in celebrating their successes on October 12.

Go Bulldogs!!!



## Art News

Congratulations to the following 6th grade students who have their art work on display: Juan Artiles, Allison Baker, Carley Childress, Maddie Counsell, Sydney K. Franklin, Matt Johnson, William Karras, Alyssa Kniffin, Cathy Nguyen, Steven Paul Pitts, Laura Rudd, and Alexander James Walker. Their work will be on exhibit through November at the Ferry Farm McDonalds. The fantasy forest have stories with them and show how we learned about imagination and creativity.



Boys Basketball tryouts will begin on Thur., Nov. 12th. All boys trying out MUST have a physical for the current school year. The physical must be on file at the school. Coach Burgess will also distribute Basketball Tryout Information Forms in November.

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Any 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade boy interested in wrestling this winter, please see Coach Alton to sign-up. Wrestling tryouts will begin Nov. 12 and Nov. 13. Interested students need to have an updated VHSL physical to tryout. No physical means No tryouts.

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## MEDIA CENTER NEWS

**Book Fair: November 2 – 13.**

Hours: 7:50 a.m. – 2:50 p.m. Daily

Family Night: Monday November 2, 3:00 – 7:00p.m.

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Book Fair will be open from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, November 11—Veteran’s Day—School Closed

**Please visit our Book Fair.**

The theme is: Books Are Brain Food

If you would like to volunteer, please call Mrs. Valge at 899-0860.

Battle of the Books sign ups are going on right now. If your child is interested in participating, please see Mrs. Ward the librarian.

Robert Fanney, author of Luthiel’s Song: Dreams of the Ringed Vale will be visiting with our seventh graders on November 30<sup>th</sup> in the media center. He will be providing insight to students about writing and the process involved in getting a book published.

Congratulations to Sarah Morgan, a sixth grader on the Gators Team, for being the first student to read five of the Virginia Reader’s Choice books. Emily Mussey, a sixth grader on the Dolphin’s Team, is the second student to read five of the books. Congratulations to both students!

## [News from the Counseling Center](#)

### **Career Counseling Information:**

November is National Career Development month. Mrs. Donadi, Mrs. Phillips, and Mr. McKenney have been working with their grade-level students on completing a Career Exploration unit. Please be sure to talk with your child about what they have learned while working with their counselor.

To honor National Career Development month, Stafford County Public Schools is hosting a Career Exploration Night at Brooke Point High School on November 12, from 6:45-8:30 p.m. Registration is required and is limited to 400 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders who attend a Stafford school. Students will have the opportunity to attend three different sessions from among 25 career areas. Parents will be offered sessions to help support their child's career development. Students may register online at <http://tiny.cc/CareerNight>. Students without internet access may pick up a registration form from the Counseling Center. Deadline to register is Thursday, November 12.

### **Rising 9<sup>th</sup> Grade I.B. Information Meetings:**

**Brooke Point High School** is hosting an **International Baccalaureate** information meeting on November 2, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in their auditorium. You may log onto Brooke Point's homepage to read more about their I.B. program at <http://.stafford.brooke.schoolfusion.us>

**Mountain View High School** is hosting an **International Baccalaureate** information meeting on November 3, at 7:00 p.m. in their auditorium. For more information on Mountain View's I.B. program, log on to their web page at <http://.mountainview.groupfusion.net/>

To learn more about the International Baccalaureate diploma you may log onto [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org).

### **Holiday Assistance:**

If you or someone you know is in need of any assistance for the upcoming holidays, please contact the Counseling Center at 899-0860. Some helpful resources available in our community are listed below:

1. Salvation Army: 373-3431
2. SERVE: 288-9603
3. Angel Food Ministries: [angelfoodministries.com](http://angelfoodministries.com)
4. Agency on Aging: Janey at 371-3662
5. Bragg Hill Family Life: 371-3662
6. Rappahannock United Way: 373-0041, Ext. 316



## Band News for November 2009

All-County Band auditions will be held at Shirley Heim Middle School on Monday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 3:00 until approximately 7:30 P.M. Please check our webpage for important details. All students will be traveling to Heim Middle School by school bus at 2:15 P.M. Parents are asked to pick their child up from Shirley Heim following their audition.

Students selected for the All-County Band will be rehearsing at Stafford High School with a guest conductor on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> and performing a Saturday afternoon concert on November 14<sup>th</sup> in the Stafford High School auditorium.

Winter concerts have been scheduled. The Sixth Grade Band will perform in the Dixon-Smith gymnasium at 7:00 P.M. on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Students are asked to dress nicely (boys in shirts and ties, girls in dressy pants/skirts/dresses). The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band will be performing on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. Students are to wear concert clothing (black pants, white tuxedo shirt, dark shoes) and arrive at school by 6:30 P.M. A schedule of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade after school rehearsals will begin after Thanksgiving and will be sent home with the students, as well as posted on our webpage.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band is participating in a service project this year to benefit Hope House of Fredericksburg. We will be decorating and donating a “music” tree for the Festival of Trees held at the Fredericksburg Expo Center Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. Our tree must be set up by December 1<sup>st</sup>, so we will be collecting tree ornaments which have a musical theme throughout the month of November. If you would like to donate a musical ornament for our tree, please send it in by November 24<sup>th</sup>. **MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!**

# November Event Calendar

- 2 - All County Band Auditions – SHMS – 2:20 pm (One Way)
- 2-13 - Book Fair – Family Night is Nov. 2 from 3-7 pm
- 3 - NO SCHOOL – “Election Day” - Teacher Workday
- 4 - Football Game – Away – HHP  
All County Chorus – NSHS – 9:10 am (One Way)
- 5 - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Focus – GMS – Debate Workshop – 9:30 am to 1:15 pm
- 6 & 7 - Jr. Regional Strings Weekend
- 9 - Internet Safety through Health Class
- 10 - End of 1<sup>st</sup> Nine Weeks  
Internet Safety through Health Class  
Football Game – Away – SHMS
- 11 - NO SCHOOL – “Veterans Day”
- 12 - Boy’s Basketball & Wrestling Tryouts Begin
- 13 & 14 - All County Band Weekend @ CFHS
- 19 - DSMS – Career Exploration Night – 6-8:30 pm
- 20 - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Freedom Team & 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Focus  
(Newseum, Washington, DC – 8:30 am to 2:30 pm)
- 25-27 - NO SCHOOL – “Thanksgiving Holiday”

