

# The COMET

A Newsletter for the Kendrick Middle School Community

January, 2001



## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL RON DUNNAVANT

As we enter the second half of our school year and 2001, I know that many of you have made new resolutions to achieve goals during the coming year. Some of those goals are personal and some are school related. Regardless of which category each goal may be considered, all are important. If we had the ability to look forward into time and see what the New Year will bring, we may enter the next months with fear or excitement. Depending on what we would see, we may want to even change the course of events. There is one way that we can make all of this speculation irrelevant. We can simply do our best at everything we do. If we do this, there is no room for second-guessing or "what ifs".

An author that I once read asked, "If you knew that today was your last day on earth, how would you spend your last hours? How would you want to be remembered?" Would we want to be remembered as not doing the very best that we could do? Would we want to be remembered for not reaching the goals that we had aspired to reach?

We may never reach all of the mountaintops that we strive for, but wouldn't it be great to be remembered as one that was always doing our best to climb that mountain. Each day is another step toward that mountaintop in our future. Each day presents new opportunities to climb a little higher and reach a little farther. Each day presents a chance to make things a little better for others and us.

My wish for all of you is that the New Year will be a happy and prosperous. I hope that you will reach many mountaintops during 2001. But most of all, I hope that you reach the heights of your potential academically and personally. Happy New Year to all of you!



## PTSA PLANS "PARENTS JAZZ NIGHT"

The Kendrick PTSA announces a PARENT NIGHT OF JAZZ to be held on March 3, 2001 in the Kendrick Commons. The Night of Jazz is for parents to have an opportunity to enjoy a night out at school in an enjoyable social setting. We are working to make this an exciting night for our parents. Ticket will go on sale the week of January 22, 2001, at the price of \$20.00 per couple and \$10.00 for a single ticket. Tickets at the door will be \$15.00 for singles and \$25.00 for couples.

Boys Night Out is scheduled for February 9, 2001 from 7:30pm to 11:00pm. Ticket sales will start Wednesday January 17th. The price is \$5.00 in advance, \$4.00 with PTSA Membership and \$7.00 at the door. The next PTSA meeting will held on Tuesday, February 13. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Kendrick Commons. All parents and community is welcome.

## YOUTH TO YOUTH



We are very excited to announce that we will be attending the Pride conference in Louisville, Kentucky during March. It is an excellent opportunity for Youth to Youth students to fellowship with others who are dedicated to a drug-free, non-violent life. Students and sponsors will have the opportunity to attend a wide variety of classes and activities that reinforce the positive aspects of making good life decisions. For more information, see Ms. Dixon or Ms. Bennett.

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

The counselor's office has been extremely busy this year registering new students for this school. The large number of new enrollees is an indication of how rapidly this school district is growing.

The guidance department began the program this year by selecting and training students to be Guiding Stars. These students assist new students at Kendrick as they become oriented to the new routine. Students have experienced classroom guidance on bullying and problem solving. Upcoming plans for classroom guidance include activities on respect for self and others.

We are also planning career day for the eighth grade on March 29. On this date, speakers from various occupations will come to speak to the eighth graders. Students have expressed a particular interest in having speakers from areas such as electronics, engineering, and personal service. If you or someone you know would like to be a speaker, please call 770-472-8409 to volunteer.

As an additional component of career exploration, some students will be able to spend a day shadowing someone on the job. The school will make the arrangements with businesses in the area, but transportation will have to be arranged by the parent. Again, if your business would be interested in participating in the shadowing activity, please call 770-472-8409. All career exploration activities are designed to help our students prepare for advisement and high school registration, which will occur in April.



## GAMA NEWS

GAMA members delivered over 2,000 canned goods to South DeKalb mall for the 11Alive Canathon. Thank you to everyone who donated food. Mr. Ingram and Mrs. Hawkins won the homeroom competition. Their students enjoyed Stevie B's pizza, as a reward.

Remember to send us your trash! GAMA is hosting the plastic recycling program, so bring your plastic grocery bags to the collection box in the commons area. Money raised from this project will help our media center purchase a security system.

Also, send the General Mills box tops labels from cereal, yogurt, and snacks. Kendrick receives 10 cents for each of these labels.

At meetings, GAMA members are preparing display boards, promoting reading and literacy, as well as our club scrapbook for the GAMA state convention on March 10th.

In order to raise money for our state convention, we will host a bake sale at the next PTSA meeting, on February 13<sup>th</sup>. See you there!

## MEDIA CENTER NEWS



Join the "Reading Club" in our treehouse full of books! Research shows that children who read well, do well in school and in life. Our school is hosting a Scholastic Book Fair Treehouse from February 23-March 1, 2001.

Students will have 2 chances to win free books. A bookmark contest will be held the week before the bookfair and 4 winners will receive \$5 in free books. Listen to the afternoon announcements or ask your teacher for details. Also, when students spend \$5 at Book Fair Treehouse, their name will be placed in the bird's nest. Two names will be drawn for \$10 gift certificates redeemable for merchandise in the bookfair.

All Book Fair purchases help raise money for our school, which will be used to purchase a security system for the media center.

In addition to the bookfair, Scholastic also provides Reading Jamboree as a fundraising program. The week before the book fair students will bring home an address booklet. Complete this booklet with the names and addresses of 7 friends and family members. Scholastic will mail a one-time offer for magazines and books at a discount. No mailing list is created from the addresses. Our school receives \$4 for each booklet.

We hope to see you at our special Book Fair Treehouse!





# OUR PARENT VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BEST!

by Janice R. Walston

The difference between a good school and a great school is parents. We know this to be true at Kendrick Middle School. Our parent participation has always been commendable, however, this year our parental involvement has REACHED an unprecedented height. This achievement is taking place on REACH DAY, the first Wednesday of each month at Kendrick Middle School. Our parents volunteer their time and talents to assist educators to accomplish the mammoth job of making sure that no student is left behind academically, behaviorally or socially. Volunteers are on campus often. Many volunteers arrange their schedules to be on campus for the entire school day. Others are available for a designated period of time. Still, others choose to work for our school at home. The parental response has been motivating, exciting, refreshing, enhancing and enlightening for adults and students alike. When asked to identify the benefits of volunteering, Mrs. J. Nelms responded, "It allows me the opportunity to interact with the staff, up close, as they perform their jobs. It provides an insight as to what the kids are taught and the quality of the education provided. It allows me the opportunity to contribute." Mrs. A.C. Barnett states, "Whatever I can do to help enhance a positive school climate, I'm here for that reason. Personal contact with caring adults is important". Mr. E. Williams says, "It helps me to see my child in his school setting. Boy, school has changed." Mr. Q. E. Bracey, Sr. says, "Our children need positive role models and exposure to career possibilities. More parents need to get involved".

On REACH DAY volunteers: read to the class, provide individualized instruction, provide tutorial serve, assist in the Media Center, work at KMS Book Fairs, monitor classrooms, monitor outdoor activities, monitor hallways, assist students with computer research, assist teachers with special activities, make copies, assist administratively with filing and organizing, accompany students on field trips, assemble bulletin boards and display, make career presentations, prepare specialty items for projects and simply observe.

The Clayton County Public School System values the maintenance of public goodwill towards its school district; therefore, it sanctions and supports the REACH PROGRAM for all Clayton County Public Schools. REACH is an acronym for Report Education Achievement and Commit to Help. Under the REACH Umbrella are the following programs: 1. VIPS – Volunteers in Public Schools. 2. PIE – Partners in Education. 3. ARMS – Adult Roles Models for Students. The scope, depth and personage of the Kendrick Middle School parent volunteers magnify all areas of the REACH PROGRAM.

School pride and commitment to the children we serve are the cornerstones for the success of our volunteer program. We, the faculty and staff of Kendrick Middle School welcome and appreciate the support from our parent community.

See you on Wednesday, 02-07-01, our next REACH – Parent Volunteer Day!

## KENDRICK COMETS BOY'S BASKETBALL



The Comets are having an exciting year in basketball. The county has been very competitive with the Comets playing good defensive basketball. So far this year the comets have traveled to Woodstock, Georgia to play E.T.Booth for a four game set. Even though the comets came out on the short end, they were able to experience what it is like to travel to an away game and perform. This was an experience for the students since some of these students will be in high school next year and will play high school sports.

The team exists of:

Junior Ajayi, Quinton Anderson, Kevin Barksdale, Ricky Bodiford, Quintin Bracey, Renzie Bryant, Rico Dent, Darrian Griffin, Marquis Hill, B.J. Hill, Brandon Hood, Chris King, Fabian Lee, Valin Leggett, Brandon Mikell, Trent Mitchell, Jocquet Moss, Fola Ola, Travis Parham, Hakim Patrick, Bryant rochon, Brandon Stewart, Terrance Thomason. Managers for the Comets are Katryna Langhorne, Maryella Shelton-Dyson, Brittani Barnett and Shayna Henderson. Coaches for the Comets are Kelly Polk, Chris Tucker and Barry Ross.

We invite everyone out to watch the Comets in the Middle School tournament at the end of the month.

## CONGRATULATIONS

To  
**MS. SHAREE  
STROBRIDGE  
AND  
MR. JERETO  
HENDERSON**

Who will unite in holy matrimony on January 27, 2001, in Swainboro, Georgia

The beautiful bride is a sixth grade mathematics teacher and an outstanding member of the Kendrick Middle School Family.

## KENDRICK MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORUS NEWS



On Saturday, January 6, 2001, several students from the KMS Chorus participated in Six District Honor Chorus. Those students are: Amber Wiggins, Andree' Omoregbe, Michelle James, Melate Kebede, Samiyyah Ferrell, Simone Wright, Steven McAfee, Leamon Hood, Shirlicia Housch, Zahra Pirani, Brittney McGruder, Lindsey Townsend, Erica Bannister, and Felicia Maddox.

The weekend of February 9 & 10, 2001, the following students will be participating in "Six Grade Statewide Honor Chorus": Katherine Wayte, Yasmine Wilson, Adrianna Newkirk, and Brittany Fyffe. This event will take place at the Performing Arts Center here in Clayton County. The concert will be on Saturday, Feb. 10th, beginning at 2:00pm.

The Chorus students are participating in a fundraiser at this time. Students are selling \$1.00 candy items. Please help support these students and the program by purchasing candy. The sale ends on Friday, January 26, 2001.

The Chorus has planned a field trip to Columbus, Georgia, on Monday, February 5, 2001, to see the play "Harriett Tubman". Students will leave KMS at 8:45am on chartered buses and return to KMS by 4:30pm.

Choral Festival is fast approaching! We will begin working on festival music Wednesday, January 17th. The festival is being held at the PAC on February 27th & 28th. KMS will be represented by three groups, 6th Grade, 7th Grade, and 8th Grade. Last year we received "Excellent" ratings, this year we are working toward earning "Superior" ratings. We will be performing our festival pieces at a pre-festival concert at the PAC along with groups from Morrow Middle School on Wednesday, February 14, 2001.

After the festival, students will begin working on our "Spring Concert/Awards Ceremony". The Chorus will have a combined "Spring Concert" with the band and orchestra on May 10, 2001, at the PAC, beginning at 7:00pm. The Chorus will have our complete concert and awards ceremony on Tuesday, May 22, 2001, here at KMS in the commons area. The performance will begin at 7:00pm.

Chorus students have planned a field trip on May 3, 2001, to see the play "Carousel". The play will be performed at a theater on the Georgia Tech campus.

The weekend on May 11th & 12th, the chorus, band, and orchestra are planning on attending the "Star Music Festival" sponsored by "Six Flags over Georgia". All groups will compete on May 11th, performing their festival music, and students will enjoy a day at the park on May 12th.

Be sure and place the performance dates on your calendar, and come out and support your KMS Chorus!

## FABULOUS FUNDRAISER TIME



### Let's Pull Together For **KENDRICK**

Hey Kendrick Middle School Family it is nearly time again for our Fabulous Spring Fundraiser! The kick-off date will be Friday, February 23rd. On the 23rd, Randy Grice, from Great American Opportunities, our Fundraising Company, will present a high-octane, action packed and fun-filled assembly for each of our grade levels to explain the prizes and products. You are welcome to come and listen to Randy. We will be selling various Chocolates and Bath and Body Works products. These have been great sellers in the past.

We are anticipating that our Spring Fundraiser will be the best one ever! Our goal as a school is for each student to sell just \$20 worth of products. The money that we raise from the fundraiser will be going toward items for our reading classes, money towards a security system in the media center just to name a couple of places. The fundraiser will last for 2 weeks. The last day to sell will be Thursday, March 8th. The orders will be due on March 9th and the order will be sent out on Monday, March 12th. The school order will arrive on Wednesday, March 28th. We will pass out the order as soon as it arrives so that you can distribute the order during Spring Break.

We will also have some additional prizes along with what the fundraising company provides. The top student salesperson in each homeroom will get to choose which staff member they would like to dunk in the "Dunking Booth" (staff members to participate include Officer Godfrey, Mr. Ray, Ms. Beasley, Ms. R. Johnson, and others, just to name a few). Thanks in advance for all your help!



## TEAM 6A NEWS

In Social Studies the students are studying the Constitution of the United States and the Declaration of Independence. The students will memorize and recite in front of the class the Preamble and they will also create a picture collage of the preamble.

Decimals, decimals, decimals will be the focus of Math. Additionally, percentages will also be taught. Students will fine tune their PowerPoint presentations they recently did in Science. Many projects have been selected for entry for the Science Fair. The unit of study will be Compounds and Solutions. Each student will research an atom. A hands on approach will be used to construct elements. The Language Arts classes will focus on capitalization skills to help students prepare for standardized testing. To help take the anxiety out of testing the students will be using test ready and test best to prepare them for testing. The students will use the internet and other sources to research famous black Americans and a word processing program to complete their final project. In Reading, the students will create an ABC book of Famous Black Americans in the United States. The students will be encouraged to utilize accelerated reader to improve their comprehension skills and reading skills.

## BEING THE BEST WE CAN BE ON TEAM 6B!

We are very proud to announce that Roxanne Bruguez is Team 6B's student of the month. It is always a treat to recognize the academic and personal achievements of one of our prized students. We have planned many exciting activities for the next six weeks. We will be attending two performances that relate to our reading, language arts, and social studies curriculum. We will be viewing The Hobbit and Robin Hood.

In Language Arts the team is creating their own tabloids depicting the adventures of a shrinking mom overwhelmed with her children. Students will also be honing their grammar skills using commas and parts of speech. Parents can help students with these skills by helping them proofread assignments and reading with them nightly.

Science students will be discussing electricity and magnetism. Students will explore how magnetism and electricity effect one another. In addition to our diverse laser disc program we will begin a wonderful exploration using "The Voyage of the Mimi," a video program that relates the curricula in a real world manner.

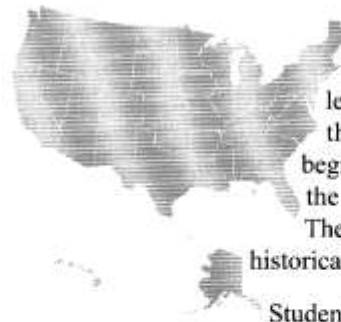
In Math, students will be working on patterns and number sense. This will help them develop number sense and an understanding of fractions. Reading recipes and creating organizational lists can help your child develop these skills.

In Reading Team 6B is currently enjoying Maniac Magee and the ensuing discussions about homelessness, racism, and prejudice have been lively and enlightening. We are looking forward to extensive reviews in preparation for testing in the Spring. Our culminating studies will include a poetry gallery and various plays.

Social Studies students are diligently exploring the world. In January and February we are taking a closer look at North America. Our current activity is creation of a collage that represents the meaning of the Preamble of the Constitution. As always we are continuing to emphasize our geography skills. It is important for students to practice at home skills such as reading charts, using reference materials, and reading maps. Any practice will help improve their test scores.

February 7, 2001 is REACH day and we would love to have any interested parent spend the day with us.

## Team 6C



In Social Studies, Students are learning to locate the states and their capitals. They will soon begin studying the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. They will be comparing these two historical documents.

Students are studying sentence structure and parts of speech in Language Arts, as well as the writing process in preparation for standardized testing.

Science students are learning about their environment through their study of ecology. Parents, ask your child about weathering.

Math students will begin a unit on fractions as well as continuing our work on basic math skills in preparation for standardized testing. Parents, please work with your child on basic math facts.

In our Reading classes, students are focusing on skills such as identifying the main idea and supporting detail, sequencing, and drawing conclusions. Look for upcoming information on their 4<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks book report.

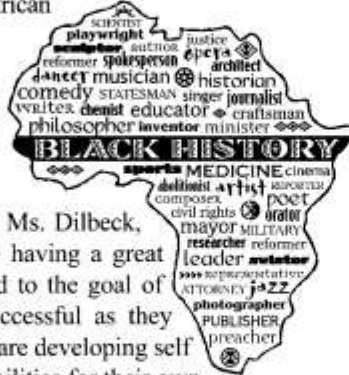




## TEAM 7C

Happy New Year!

Team 7C is on the move again! As the team prepares to celebrate Black History month they will culminate this months activities by attending the UniverSoul Circus. This trip explores the contributions of African Americans in the creative arts.



## TEAM 8B

Teachers Ms. Waller, Ms. Wyatt, Ms. Dilbeck, Ms. Randall and Mr. Tucker are having a great year. We have remained focused to the goal of preparing our students to be successful as they transition into high school. They are developing self discipline and accepting responsibilities for their own learning more and more each day. This will also help us prepare the students for the upcoming "test season." Maintaining this focus on academics is much easier when we do not have to constantly deal with discipline. We believe that we have the most disciplined team in the school.

Due to this positive behavior from the students, the team has been able to set up several field trips. The students enjoyed a History fieldtrip in November to the African American Panoramic Experience Museum and the Martin Luther King Jr. Center. Ms. Dilbeck is planning to continue the celebration of African American Heritage by taking the students to a presentation of "Freedom Train" the life of Harriet Tubman. Ms. Waller has planned a Science trip to the Tennessee Aquarium and Ms. Wyatt has a trip planned to Six Flags for Math and Science day.

We have high expectations that we will continue to have a positive year with the students growing closer and closer to our ultimate goal of life success for each one.



## HEALTH CLASS NEWS

The Health classes will be participating in a safety belt poster contest. The contest is sponsored by the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service Occupant Safety Education Program. One poster from each grade level will be chosen and sent to Athens to compete with all other middle schools in the state.

The first, second, and third place winners will receive ribbons, cash and will be recognized at the Awards Ceremony held in conjunction with the Buckle Up America! Week Campaign in May 2001. After the ceremony the posters from all grade levels will be made into a calendar. GOOD LUCK to all participants!!

## TEAM 8C

**WOW!**  
**look at this**

We had a good beginning for the 2000-2001 school year. As we look forward to a new semester, the teachers and students of Team 8C have several projects planned.

In Mrs. Mills' science class students are completing their unit on Gravity. The culminating activity is an independent project about Newton's three laws of motion due January 19, 2001. The students were asked to illustrate the laws. Some of the students are creating pop-up books, while others are creating brochures. We cannot wait to see the finished products. In addition, the class is finishing their science fair projects due January 26, 2001. The anticipated start date for school fair is January 29, and only the best will make it into the fair. We know that means everyone on Team 8C!!

Mr. Wilson's social studies classes are in the process of completing their projects and/or their reports on the American Revolution. The students requested a project to practice their writing skills. In this up coming semester the student will begin learning about the Constitution and the amendment process. Their next journey in history will be the American Civil War.

Ms. Perez's math class recently completed their chapter on geometry and are moving into fractions. The students will be doing group work during the fraction lessons.

During the fourth and fifth six weeks, students will complete a poetry unit in Mrs. Bakari's English class. They will study and write traditional and Free verse poetry. To commemorate the Holocaust, Team 8C students will read a play based on "The Diary of Anne Frank". Students will be assigned a research paper on first hand accounts of Holocaust survivors. They will need to visit the library for resources as well as use the internet to gather information.

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

**TO  
MR. VLADIMIR  
YAMPOLSKY, DMA**



Recipient of the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree  
Saint-Petersburg Conservatory, Russia

Mr. Yampolsky graduated in July 2000 with expertise in Viola performance and teaching. Mr. Yampolsky is a master musician and an exemplary member of the Kendrick Middle School Family.