

THE COMET

A Newsletter for the Kendrick Middle School Community

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Carrie D. Kendrick Middle School

March 1999



7th Grade Lady Comets County Basketball Champions

Congratulations to the 7th Grade Lady Comets Basketball team on becoming the 7th grade Clayton County Champions. The Lady Comets defeated Lovejoy Middle School on February 10th to win the title. Way to go, ladies! Kendrick Middle School is extremely proud of this fine group of young ladies who are champions on and off the court.

The team was coached by Iris Gibbons and Pam Davis. The team was managed by Andria Hall. The team includes these students: Chasmine Blair, Shanelle Booker, Jennifer Dugger, Keisha Evans, Rachel Gilbert, Whitney Glenn, Jessica Johnson, Kelsey Jones, Nastashia Mack, Brittany Mason, Eva Miller, Shaconda Smith, and Katrice Vann.

Students of the Month

January

Kendrick Middle School's Student of the Month for January was Deshaun Duvernay. Deshaun is a well-rounded seventh grader who is involved in many school activities which include the Beta Club, the band, and the football team. Being in these activities has not kept Deshaun from making the all "A" honor roll each six week grading period. He also received the Principal's Award.

Deshaun is a positive role model for his peers and very cooperative with his teachers and others in authority. He participates in the Boy Scouts of America and regularly attends Bible study classes at his church.

February

Calvin Barnes, eighth grade, was chosen for Student of the Month for February. Calvin is an excellent model of a student who strives for perfection in all that he does. Among his accomplishments, Calvin made all "A" honor roll for two consecutive grading periods this year and he is a member of the Beta Club.

Calvin excels in more than just academics. He is an accomplished pianist and has won numerous awards. Calvin participates in Kendrick's band program where he is described as being outstanding and dependable. In addition, Calvin won "Best-in-Show" in the school wide art contest in 1997-98.



Team 6-A

Mrs. Beasley, Ms. Bennett, and Mrs. Hawkins announce the upcoming topics that will be discussed in class. Mrs. Hawkins will focus on spelling strategies and parts of speech in language arts. Mrs. Beasley will continue with "hands-on" equations. Students continue to work on the addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of fractions.

At the end of the fourth grading period, our team will hold an awards assembly for the third and fourth grading periods.

Team 6-B

Team 6B is busy preparing for the last 12 weeks of school. On March 2nd, in honor of Dr. Suess and *Read Across America Day*, the entire 6th grade participated in "Pop Your Top Reading."

In social studies, students are studying ancient civilizations and researching Greek gods and goddesses to prepare for class presentations. Our next focus of study will be the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Ms. Dixon is very pleased with the enthusiasm and interest shown by all the students.

Ms. Garner's science classes concentrated on "Severe Weather Week." The focus was tornadoes and their effect on Georgia. We have also been using the new Clayton County Weather Web-site to look at conditions throughout the United States.

Math students are expanding their knowledge of math patterns and number sense by identifying prime and composite numbers. Ms. Waller's class will move into a study of fractions.

Team 6-C

In language arts, students just finished a historical overview of the African-American experience. Stories such as *Abd-al Rahman Ibrahima* and *A Long Hard Journey* were used to uncover elements of Black History from the slave trade to the era of the Pullman Porter.

Students are now preparing for the ITBS!

Team 6-D

Team 6D is very proud that Brandon Hardee was chosen Student of the Month for December.

Mr. Borhauer won an A+ grant to purchase a video editing machine. We will use this to produce a video on the art of paper making.

Currently, we are studying the Middle Ages and making plans to attend the Georgia Renaissance Fair in April.

Team 7-A

Congratulations to Elmira Laghaie for winning a district speech contest on "Optimism in My Life." Elmira believes that it is very important to have optimism in her life because it helps her go on when things don't turn out the way she wishes. She can always see the sunny side of things and no matter what, tries her best.

Elmira was motivated to enter the speech for a chance to win a \$1500 in a scholarship. She also enjoyed being able to express her feelings. If Elmira wins the regional competition in Newnan on March 18, it will be off to Macon for the state. Team 7A wishes her the best of luck and no matter what happens she will always be a winner in our eyes.

Team 7-B

In observation of Black History Month, Team 7B studied achievements and contributions of African-Americans.

Several of our students participated in the Science and Social Science Fairs. Many received awards for their projects.

During this six weeks in language arts, students will each be assigned an "I-Search" report to complete. This report requires the student to do the following: choose a profession that interests him/her, write what is already known about the profession, develop questions on what he/she would like answered about the profession, research answers to questions, develop questions and interview someone in the chosen profession, write an essay on the findings and present this material to the class.



Team 7-C

This year is rapidly coming to an end with only three months left to go. 7C would like to thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to our final field trip on May 5th to Chattanooga. While in Tennessee, we will visit the I-Max Theater, the Tennessee Aquarium, and explore the cave of Ruby Falls.

Parents: please feel free to join us on our scenic city adventure of fish, falls, and fun.

Team 8-A

Students in Mrs. Horne's class have been working with equations: solving two-step equations and solving equations using the distributive property and combining like terms. In preparation for the ITBS, students are interpreting graphs and analyzing mathematical data. Soon, students will explore the many elements and facets of geometry.

In this six weeks, students will identify and analyze the underlying and immediate causes of the Civil War. The effects of Reconstruction on the southern blacks and whites will be discussed.

Language arts students are studying Edgar Allen Poe. Science classes just finished the water unit and are about to begin the study of the earth's ecosystems. Over the course of the next 12 weeks, expect the students to explore food chains, biomes, and relationships between organisms,

Congratulations to team member Calvin Barnes as February Student of the Month.

Team 8-B

Some exciting things have happened in Georgia history on Team 8B. Mr. Harris' classes just completed a social science project where students researched topics of their choice. Topics included: single African-American parents, how does television effect children, and should uniforms be worn in public school? In addition, in honor of Black History month, students researched the African-American of their choice.

We are expecting great things for the remainder of the school year. Ask your child to share their class projects with you.

Team 8-C

What does a tropical rain forest biome look like? Ms. Levenson's science classes will construct a model display on the 8th grade hall of a tropical rain forest during the month of March. Each class will identify plant life, animal life, rivers, and other key features of the rain forest biome.

Language arts students are writing using a variety of poetry styles: Shapes and Nouns, and Letter and Dialogue. Students are using metaphors, similes, and rhyme. They are using personification as well as imagery in their poetry. Research papers will be the main topic during the fifth six weeks.



Show Your Spirit!

Two opportunities are available at Kendrick Middle School for young ladies with lots of school spirit to put that energy to use.

A tryout clinic for the 1999-2000 Kendrick

Middle School Dance Team will begin in April. Sixth and seventh grade candidates will participate in a three day clinic (3:30-5:30). Candidates must be academically eligible and a current medical physical must be on file before a candidate will be permitted to participate in the tryout clinic.

The 1999-2000 Kendrick Middle School Cheerleader tryout clinic will begin in April also. Candidates must be academically eligible, have a current medical physical on file, and have a signed insurance waiver before they will be permitted to participate in the tryout clinic.

Mrs. Tucker, dance team coach, and Ms. Levenson, cheerleader coach, are looking forward to a spirit filled year and wish good luck to all candidates. Students interested should contact these sponsors for more information.

News from Beta Club

The Beta Club showed their appreciation to the administration, secretaries, lunchroom workers, and custodians by making Valentine's treats for them.



In March, Beta Club members will be selling Shamrocks to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. These Shamrocks will be placed around the school with the names of the those who made a contribution. We appreciate everyone's support in raising money for a worthy cause.

Counselors's Corner

The guidance office has been busy with several projects during the last 12 weeks. During National Counseling Week, February 1-5, we held Career Awareness Week for the eighth grade. The winners of the career dress-up day were Dominique Bones, Jason Towns, and Nikki Adeniyi. Leon James, Ty Gilmer, Takara Hicks, and Yasmin Neal received honorable mentions. The best home room decoration prize went to both Mrs. Bakari's and Ms. Levenson's classes. The week ended with over 20 Career Day speakers. The entire week was very successful. As a follow-up to Career Week, the counselors presented the Georgia Career Information System and the Self-Directed Search to the students.

The counselors are also involved with the training of peer mediators in cooperation with the PTSA. **Students Against Violence in Education (SAVE)** is a program developed to encourage students to resolve conflicts nonviolently through effective communication skills and compromise.

The month of April is devoted to eighth grade advisement and registration for high school. The counselors will review graduation requirements and registration procedures with students. The teachers will invite students to similar presentations from April 20-26. The high schools offer orientation activities to parents and students on the following dates:

Jonesboro High School, April 20 @ 7:30 p.m.
Mt. Zion High School, April 22 @ TBA
Riverdale High School, April 27 @ 6:00 p.m.

News from MOID

The MOID Department had a successful fund raiser selling candy grams for Valentine's Day. We appreciate those who participated.

Our students have enjoyed learning swimming skills in February. They are also continuing to training for the Special Olympics which will be April 21 at Twelve Oaks stadium. We are also looking forward to attending the Arts Festival at Clayton State College on April 23.

Clayton State education students have recently observed our classes in action. We enjoyed having them visit and hope they will join us again next year.

March is Exceptional Children's Month

The month of March is slated as Exceptional Children's Month. It is observed to remind us of the plights and contributions of citizens that have disabilities. It also means to awaken community awareness to the needs and capabilities of exceptional children and the programs that support them.

At Kendrick Middle School, one of our goals is to help each student develop to their highest potential and to become as self-supporting as possible. We provide educational services for our students with various disabilities and challenges. Feel free to stop by Kendrick to become familiar with our programs.

Pace's Prized Possessions

Let's Do It the Write Way!

Writing takes a kind of practice and skill which we are instilling in all KMS students including the Resource Rooms. We have used "quick writes" of 2-3 minutes, creative writing from given topics, and poetry books. Students wrote poetry of various kinds using figurative and literal language. In the next six weeks we will concentrate on a research paper with students utilizing the writing process with extra attention given to proof reading. They will learn how to select a topic, gather pertinent information about the topic, take and organize notes, compose a rough and final draft.

Does It All Add Up?

In math, a unit which focuses on everyday applications is at work now. Selecting a career, salary, budgeting, and record keeping are part of the unit. Also, sale prices are computed using percentages.



GAMA

The Georgia Association of Media Assistants, with 40 members, would like to give you some information about our new officers and what we have been doing. New officers are: President - Heather Wendlandt, Vice-President - Nathan Biles, Secretary - Trish Latham, Treasurer - Marissa McGrady, and Historian - Tasia Ortiz.

At meetings, we are practicing the morning announcements and researching web-sites for our article in the state newsletter. We have been working on a really neat G.A.M.A. scrapbook with everything we have done this year. It includes pictures and other mementoes of the year, like the Comet Newsletter. It will be judged at the state convention on March 17th in Macon, Georgia. At the convention we will elect state officers, attend classes on video taping, computers, and go skating!

We would like to thank Sam's Club, Kroger, Ingles, Chic-Fil-A, and Publix for sponsoring our pancake breakfast. Also, a big thank you to the parents who purchased cookies at the PTSA meeting and Mrs. Russo, cafeteria manager, for donating them. All of you have made it possible for us to take a bus to the state convention.

On Saturday, February 6th, Heather Wendlandt, Tiffany James, and Dante Dawson attended a state meeting at Mt. Zion High School. They saw and talked to students from all over the state using video conferencing.

As a school service project, we are collecting General Mills box tops.

Remember that G.A.M.A. meetings are every Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Media Center. New members are always welcome.

Media Center Update

Thank you for supporting the book fair. Due to its success, we received many new books for the media center. Students and parents who made purchases at the February PTSA meeting entered a drawing for free merchandise. congratulations to Danille Wynn, who won \$25 in books and to Mrs. Tammy Neal, who won a book bag. The next book fair will be a Price Warehouse sale held May 5-13.



Science Fair Winners

KMS held its first annual Science Fair during the week of February 2-5. There were 36 students who demonstrated their knowledge of the steps of the scientific method and did an excellent job at it.

The following students received Awards of Excellence, 1st place awards, and were selected to participate in the Clayton County Science Fair on March 6 at KMS: 7th Grade - Dee Emanuel, Denitra Gober, Linda Teston, Eva Rivera, Kandyce Lee, Nakia Washington, Elmira Laghaie, and Kelsey Jones; 8th Grade - Cherise Brewer, Joeroda Brown, Zannetis Billingslea, Kameron Bradley, and Eric McBeth.

Hats off to all for the students for a job well done and good luck at the county level fair!

Save Your Box Tops

General Mills' *Box Tops for Education Program* helps school earn money that they can spend on anything they need: books, computer, or whatever! Here's all you have to do:

1. Collect box tops. Encourage students, families, and other members of your community to clip and collect box top logos on participating General Mills products.
2. Send your box tops to school. Turn in your box tops in the media center.
3. Your school gets a check!

Kendrick Middle School Calendar

March

- 11 Academic Assembly
- 12 Swim Meet*
- 15-27 Iowa Test of Basic Skills**
- 17 Track Meet @ Twelve Oaks Stadium
- 19 Swim Meet*
- 22 Track Meet @ Kendrick
- 24 Club Day
Progress Reports
- 26 Swim Meet*
- 31 Track Meet @ Kendrick

April

- 2 Swim Meet*
- 5-9 Spring Break - No School**
- 13 Track Meet @ Kendrick
- 14 Club Day
- 16 Swim Meet*
- 19-21 County Track Championships @ Twelve Oaks Stadium
- 21 End 5th Six Weeks
- 20 PTSA @ Kendrick 7:00 p.m.
- 23 Swim Meet*
- 28 Club Day
- 30 Swim Meet*

May

- 3-5 County Swim Championships*
- 4 Chorus Concert @ PAC 7:00 p.m.
- 12 Progress Reports
Club Day
- 21 KMS Commons
- 22 Honors Day @ PAC 1:00 p.m.
- 25 Band Concert @ PAC 7:00 p.m.
- 27 Orchestra Concert @ PAC 7:00 p.m.
- 31 Memorial Day - No School**

June

- 4 Last Day of School**

*All swim meets are held at the Forest Park Recreation Center.

Kendrick Swim Team

The Kendrick Swim Team begins its season on Friday March 12th at 8 p.m. against Forest Park and Morrow. All meets are held at the Forest Park Recreation Center. Returning eighth graders Deylan Poole, Ericca Thraikill, and Michelle Morrison will lead a strong and talented new team! Please come and show your support on March 12th!

Coach Smith and Coach Hill

Lady Comets Swim Team Roster: 8th Grade -

Chassidy Cox, Julie Delgado, Kennesha Grant, Michelle Morrison, D'Leena Nelson, Nicole Rodriguez, Ericca Thraikill, and Dominique Walker.
7th Grade - Jessica Bolton, Aarica Godley, Regan Helton, Crystal Holloway, Asia Horne, Donna Jones, Samantha McElwaney, Charleen McPeek, Tiffany Pearson, and Eva Rivera.

Comets Swim Team Roster: 8th Grade - Ray

Jackson, Eric Massey, Deylan Poole, and Julian Robinson. **7th Grade** - Marcedrick Adams, Brandon Bates, Qadir Brown, Isaiah Bryant, Curtis Derricott, Christopher James, Maurice Leggett, Stevie McGee, Tirrell, Oliver, Zakee Payton, Tony Pizano, Anthony Russo, Mario Scott, Brandon Terry.

Boys Basketball

The 7th Grade Boys Basketball team finished the season on a positive note. Playing Lovejoy Middle School in the play-offs was very exciting. The game had all the players ready and healthy to redeem ourselves from the loss to the same team in a previous game. Without the rebounders, we let Lovejoy back in the game and after they took the lead with minutes to go, they won the contest.

The whole season saw lots of individual improvements and next years' team will be a force!

The Comet is a publication of Carrie D. Kendrick Middle School. Editor; Mr. Dan Ray. Layout and Design: Mrs. Susan McCauley