

# The COMET

A Newsletter for the Kendrick Middle School Community

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May, 2001



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

As we complete the school year, I am proud of the accomplishments the students and staff of Kendrick Middle School have made during the school year. Our school has reached new heights academically, began new programs, succeeded at extra curricular activities, and been recognized for outstanding achievement in our REACH program. It has been a great year for KMS and our students.

In the fall, the KMS football Comets enjoyed a good season and went to the second round of the County Championships. The team lost a hard fought battle to County Champion Lovejoy. Our Academic year got off to a good start. The new CCPS Attendance initiative helped to reduce the number of absences and students test scores rose. The Kendrick REACH Parent Volunteer Day was begun on the first Wednesday of each month. KMS was proud to welcome 35 parents on our very first REACH DAY. Many of the academic teams experienced field trips to educational locations around Atlanta.

As the fall turned into winter, the basketball teams began practice and the academic year moved into the second grading period. Students were busy with projects in classes and extra-curricular teams began to prepare for competition. The Science Olympiad team was formed and looked forward to competition in the spring. The Math Team was selected and prepared for a spring competition date. The GAMA club sponsored a food drive to help needy families for the holidays. It was a busy time for all at KMS.

The holidays came and students enjoyed a break. But January brought a return to school and a focus on the upcoming testing period. Teachers and students put their efforts to work on improving test scores and making academic gains in the classroom. Basketball came to the end of the season and the teams played in the County Championships held at Lovejoy High School. Both boys and girls played well and represented KMS with great pride.

Spring came and the Standardized Testing period was upon us. Students were focused as they participated in the Stanford 9 test and the Georgia CRCT. Student test scores have not yet been returned but expectations are for increased scores over last year. Writing Assessment scores were released and KMS was proud to have the highest percentage of increase in the Clayton County Schools system. Eighty-three percent of all students taking the test scored at or above the target area. This was an increase of thirty-one percent. Congratulations to all teachers and students.

Boys and girls Track and Swimming took center stage in athletics during the spring. The runners and swimmers showed determination and dedication to their sport and again represented KMS with pride. The Fine Arts programs participated in festival competitions. The Science Olympiad team finalized their long preparations by competing in Atlanta at regional competition. Several students came home with ribbons and medals. Joseph Dozier won Second Place in the Rocks and Minerals division. The Kendrick Middle School Math Team tied Roberts Middle School for a second place ribbon in county competition. Omar Kahn won a third place award individually.

Team Seven B visited the Alabama Space and Rocket Center on an overnight trip to Huntsville, Alabama and team Seven C traveled to Chattanooga, Tennessee to visit the Tennessee Aquarium. Teachers enjoyed a luncheon for Teacher Appreciation Week provided by the KMS PTSA and the school administration. Cafeteria workers were honored with corsages for Food Service Appreciation Day. Eighth grade students enjoyed Eighth Grade Appreciation Week as they prepared to move on to their high schools.

On May 3, Kendrick Middle School was recognized by the CCPS as the school with the most outstanding REACH program. The award recognized the excellent parent volunteer program and the Partners in Education programs at KMS. A plaque will be displayed in the school's lobby and a check for one thousand dollars was presented to continue and enhance the program.

This has truly been a year of achievement for Kendrick Middle School. It has been a pleasure to watch our students grow and develop throughout the year. Congratulations and thanks to the students, teachers, parents, and community partners that have worked hard this year to make it successful. As the year comes to a close, I hope all will enjoy a happy and restful summer.



## KENDRICK WINS COUNTY REACH AWARD

Kendrick Middle School was recognized on May 3 for the OUTSTANDING REACH PROGRAM AWARD for 2001-2002. Mr. Paul Kraack, Clayton County Schools Coordinator of Public Affairs, presented the award to Principal Ron Dunnivant and Assistant Principal Janice Walston.

The award was presented during the annual REACH Awards program at the CCPS Performing Arts Center. The REACH Program encompasses three segments of community and parental involvement in schools. The Parent volunteer program, the Partner in Education program, and the Adult Role Model program have been established to encourage participation from the community and the business sector. Each year, a school is recognized for their efforts in developing their local school program to a high level.

In presenting the award, Mr. Kraack recognized the efforts of Kendrick Middle School in establishing a monthly parent volunteer day. This year, KMS has averaged about 30 parents each month volunteering in the school in various ways. Mr. Kraack also recognized growth in the Partner in Education program at Kendrick. The number of businesses registered as members of the PIE program has grown from 8 to 22 during the 2001-2002 school year.

*"The parents and the businesses who have agreed to share our mission are honored by this award," said Ron Dunnivant, Principal. "The commitment of these parents to step to the front and become involved with their child's education is a positive influence in our school. The businesses that help us as Partners in Education help us by providing items that we otherwise would not have and by working to keep morale high among our faculty and students. I appreciate their commitment to our school."*

For more information on the REACH program and how to get involved, call the school office.

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Since March, the guidance office has been busy registering current eighth graders for high school. We hope all 8th grade parents were able to attend either the high school or middle school orientation meeting for parents and students. If not, most high schools will have another orientation in August.

We have also been registering students who will need to go to summer school in order to be eligible for promotion. If your child is ineligible for promotion and you did not register prior to May 11, you will need to register your child at one of the three schools on June 8 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. It will be offered at Babb, Jonesboro, and Pointe South Middle Schools. The student must have failed his current grade to attend.

**The counselors wish a restful and enjoyable summer for all!**



## MEDIA CENTER NEWS

This summer, there will be some great programs at the public library, so stop by the closest branch and pick up a schedule. Activities include storytelling, puppet shows, movies and crafts.

The summer reading program at the public library begins June 2nd. Register for the program at any time and earn prizes by reading at least 25 books! Prizes will include certificates, patches, key chains, pizza and paperback books.

You may also want to start reading the Georgia Book Nominees for next year. If you read at least 3 of these books you may vote for your favorite selection in March.

### Title

Gypsy Rizka  
Ereth's Birthday  
Abraham's Battle: A Novel of Gettysburg  
Rules of the Road  
A Different Kind of Hero  
Danger in the Desert  
Bandit's Moon  
Crossing Jordan  
Second Cousins  
My Louisiana Sky  
The Troils  
True North: A Novel of the Underground Railroad  
A Season of Comebacks  
The Good Liar  
The Sacrifice  
The Wild Kid  
Me and Rupert Goody  
The Second Bend in the River  
Belle Prater's Boy  
The Magic Paintbrush

### Author

Lloyd Alexander  
Avi  
Sara H. Banks  
Joan Bauer  
Ann R. Blakeslee  
Terri Fields  
Sid Fleishman  
Adrian Fogelin  
Virginia Hamilton  
Kimberly Willis Holt  
Polly Horvath  
Kathryn Lasky  
Kathy Mackel  
Gregory Maguire  
Diane Matcheck  
Harry Mazer  
Barbara O'Connor  
Ann Rinaldi  
Ruth White  
Laurence Yep



## KMS OFFERS AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR COMING YEAR

Many parents have expressed an interest in starting an after-school program here at KMS. Campus Horizons provides a safe, supervised and affordable environment for children between 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The program provides daily activities including a snack, homework assistance, computer time, arts and crafts and health and safety programs. There are activities to enrich academic skills in math, science, history, and language arts in a fun and exciting atmosphere.

Campus Horizons is self-supported by those using the services. In order to begin a program, we must have at least twenty-eight actively enrolled students. A \$5.00 non-refundable registration fee is assessed for each child enrolled in the program. The fee structure is as follows:

- \$30/child (weekly rate)
- \$25/additional child (weekly rate)
- \$6/child (daily rate)
- \$10/child/day for registered drop-in
- \$15/child/day for non-registered drop-in

If you are interested in providing a safe, supervised, learning environment for your children in the afternoons for the next school year, please contact Pat Houlihan at 770-472-8426 or Kendrick Middle School office at 770-472-8400.



## KEYBOARDING AND COMPUTING NEWS

Kendrick Middle School was privileged to have received a state of the art computer lab in 2000-2001. It will be utilized in the 2001-2002 school year to introduce Kendrick students to a variety of computer based activities. One of these activities will be keyboarding. Keyboarding is probably one of the most important skills needed to excel in the computer industry today

Another activity will be the introduction to Microsoft Office. Microsoft Office has a variety of programs including WORD which is a word processing program. It also includes EXCEL which is a spreadsheet/database program. Microsoft Office also includes POWER POINT, which is a presentation program. These programs are probably the most commonly used in business today and the early introduction to them will no doubt enhance Kendrick student's academic career

Lastly Kendrick students will be learn to use the World Wide Web as a resource for study and investigation, not just a place to play games. The World Wide Web has an unlimited amount of resources available for research information for everything from Martin Luther King, Jr to the development of volcanoes in the Prehistoric era. Next year will be an exciting and educational time for the Computer Science program at Kendrick Middle School. Good luck to all students during the coming year! Have a great summer!

## TEAM 6A

The teachers of Team 6A would like to thank the students, parents, and guardians for a wonderful year. Our team has accomplished many goals especially in the areas of reading and writing. We encourage all students to continue to read over the summer and to participate in the public library's summer reading program. To prepare for 7th grade in math, practice multiplication and division facts (no you're not too old for flash cards), also practice adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions.

Over the summer check out the historical sites in and around the Atlanta area. As you travel check out other states historical places. Be sure to collect postcards and brochures.

Keep a journal of how the plants and animals in your neighborhood change. Familiarize yourself with the solar system and the human body. Have a great summer!

## TEAM 6B

Congratulations to the students and parents of Team 6B. You have made it through another school year. We have done many exciting things this year. Our day with the Thrashers was thrilling for students as well as adults, and our trips to the CCPS Performing Arts Center were a treat. The students have flourished this year with many opportunities to expand their horizons. We hope everyone enjoyed the reward of field day. It was a beautiful day and the contributions made by the parents were deeply appreciated.

We wish for you a wonderful summer and the best of luck for the future. Remember to keep your skills sharp during the summer months. Read a wonderful book, plan a family trip and navigate it on a map, or simply bake a cake from scratch using fractions. Enjoy a wonderful summer vacation!

## GREETINGS PARENTS AND STUDENTS ON TEAM 6C,



The 2000-2001 school year is almost at a close. We have seen many wonderful changes occurring through each and every child on our team. The changes we have seen are through personal growth, maturity, and personal satisfaction. We as a team, have encouraged, motivated, directed and supported our students to become independent learners.

Many of our students were shy and timid elementary students when they first came to us. Now as the year has progressed, it's time for our students to leave as young adolescents ready for a new year with a new beginning.

Parents, please continue to support your children in their academic endeavors. Encourage them to read and practice their math skills during the summer vacation. Good luck in the next year and have a wonderful summer!

## TEAM 7A

We were honored to have Mr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as our speaker on Friday, May 18, 2001. This event was used as a culminating activity for our team. Students spent two days researching and discussing the life of Mr. King. Mr. King challenged the students to become better readers because it will enable them to become successful. After his speech, a number of students from each seventh grade team were given the opportunity to ask questions. The students were very enthusiastic to have Mr. King visit our school. The teachers of Team 7A wish all students a wonderful summer.



## TEAM 7B

Team 7B has just returned from an adventurous fieldtrip to Huntsville, Alabama where we visited the EarlyWorks Historical Museum and the NASA Space Center. This trip was one of our extended activities for our study of family history this year.

Students traveled by chartered bus to Huntsville and stayed overnight. On the first day there, they visited EarlyWorks and learned about the families and traditions that have made Alabama what it is today. Students went on a scavenger hunt at the museum where they found many interesting facts about Alabama's life during the 1800's.

On the second day there, students visited NASA. They toured the Alabama Space and Rocket Center, visited the IMAX Theater and had lots of fun on the space center rides. The kids enjoyed it almost as much as Mrs. Stafford! There were just too many attractions to really see and explore in only one day. This was Kendrick's first large group overnight fieldtrip. Students were well behaved. Maybe next year we can plan for two nights and three days! How about that parents? YEAH?

All teachers on the team are continuing to teach skill lessons in their particular subject area. We have enjoyed a successful year and look forward to a relaxing summer for teachers and students.



## TEAM 7C

The Clever Comets of Team 7C have had an exciting year. With an energetic group of 7th graders, we've traveled to Shoney's for breakfast, the zoo, the Georgia Dome for the "Let's Kick Hepatitis" campaign, Turner Field for the Universal Circus, and a great trip to Chattanooga, Tennessee. While in Chattanooga, the students toured the IMAX theatre, the Tennessee Aquarium, and the underground cavern of Ruby Falls. It has been our aim to not only educate in the classroom, but through a variety of field trip experiences. We believe that it is what kids see, touch, and experience that they remember the most. We wish much success to the students of team 7C as eighth graders.

Farewell, Mrs. Black, Mrs. Shaw, Ms. Hearn, and Mr. Harris

## 8A TEAM

The students of Team 8A will soon be moving to high school but there is work to be completed before leaving Kendrick Middle School. The team will finish the year with a full agenda of activities and academic studies.

In Mr. White's room, students will finish the year reading the novel "Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry" by Mildred Taylor. The students will have a final exam on Thursday & Friday from this book. Mr. Martin's Reading classes will finish reading Henry V. All social studies classes will take an overall comprehensive exam. Students in Mrs. Brook's Science classes will develop a Science in Review Flipbook. This is to help the student prepare for the year-end final exam on Thursday & Friday.

Math students in Mrs. Hood's class will have a comprehensive final exam. Students should review materials covered in order to prepare. The test will be given Thursday & Friday. The teachers of Team 8A wish all of students a wonderful summer and Good Luck in the ninth grade.

## TEAM 8B

Ms. Waller and Ms. Wyatt's math and science students have been collaborating together for the last week working on an integrated unit called Classifying Fingerprints. This unit weaved important mathematics themes with relevant and exciting science topics. The students were able to take their fingerprints and analyze them as they investigated the mathematics of forensic science. They were also able to employ a variety of reasoning processes as scientists do by using several mathematics approaches to solve similar problems.

Ms. Dilbeck's language arts class is reading Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Through the reading of this novel, the students are exploring many powerful themes. For example, students are exploring the characteristics of a true hero. 8B's students will learn that a hero can exist anywhere. After redefining what it takes to be a hero, perhaps they will find a hero in their neighborhood, their family, or inside themselves. Students will view the movie version of this classic novel shortly before the end of the school year.

Mr. Tucker's Georgia history class will study the history of Georgia and the United States from the Reconstruction period until the Civil Rights era. We will focus primarily on the contributions of the African American society and how that society was affected through each time period. Good Luck to all members of Team 8B next year! Have a great summer!



## TEAM 8-C

The teachers of team 8-C would like to thank our students and parents for giving us a great year. Our students have come a long way since August 21, 2000 and we have enjoyed working with them since that day.

To finish off the school year each of our academic classes is focusing on final activities to prepare our eighth graders for high school. Mr. Wilson's history class is finishing off the year studying the World Wars. He has given the class a high school style essay to prepare to give them a taste of what to expect in the fall. The lesson ties in with Memorial Day and gives Mr. Wilson the opportunity to reflect with his students over the veterans who fought for our country. Mrs. Bakari's Language Arts class is coming to a close with the novel "Let the Circle Be Unbroken" by Mildred Taylor. The students will have the opportunity to experience teaching by presenting a lesson on the novel, creating an activity for it, and producing a test based on their lesson. In Ms. Perez's math class the students are working on graphing equations with two variables and connecting these lessons with games such as Battleship. Mrs. Strickland-Mills is ending the year with the ecology unit, something that will prepare them for their high school science classes. As the students already know, each academic class will have a final exam. This exam will take place May 31 and June 1, the last two days of school.

Although we wish each of our students a fun and safe summer, we also hope that they keep in mind the goals that they have set for high school and the next four years. They have worked hard to get to high school and we wish them the best as they continue on to bigger and better things.

Have a wonderful summer,  
Mrs. Bakari, Mrs. Strickland-Mills, Mr. Wilson, and Ms. Perez

## GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF MEDIA ASSISTANTS

The Kendrick Middle School GAMA club has had a busy year. In the fall we elected officers and they are:

<b>President</b>	<b>Erica Holland</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Danielle Wynn</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Breontae Williams</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Marisa Gordon</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Corlis Carlisle</b>
<b>Reporter</b>	<b>Jessica Holland</b>

We had great Halloween and Christmas parties, with a costume contest, a gift exchange, food, and drink. We sponsored the Alive Marathon at our school. We collected over 1,100 canned goods for the less fortunate. Bake sales at PTSA meetings provided money to purchase teleprompter software for our TV studio. At GAMA meetings, we prepared plastic bags for recycling, made tri-boards to promote reading, and prepared our club scrapbook. Each day we help Mrs. Goff and Mrs. Haulihan in the media center. We are in charge of updating a slide show program that runs on TV's throughout our school. We also update the marquee in front of our school and shelve books. The state convention was a lot of fun, although we missed the sleepover parties at a hotel!

Currently we are writing to e-mails across the country. We would like to thank Mr. Borhauer, one of our sponsors, for all his work. This is his last year at KMS and we will miss him!

Reported by  
Brittany Fyffe, State Reporter  
Cheryl Goff, Sponsor



## KENDRICK ATHLETICS NEWS

The Kendrick Athletic sports team enjoyed great success this year. The coaches would like to thank all the parents, students and athletes for their support this year. A school can not achieve success without strong support from its followers. Congratulations to all those who participated during the various seasons.

The Athletic Department would like to invite all in-coming students and returning students to consider trying out for one of our athletic teams in the 2001-2002 school year. Girls will be able to choose from Volleyball, Basketball, Swimming, Cheerleading and Track. Boy's sports will include Football, Basketball, Swimming and Track.

A reminder that students participating in athletics must be academically eligible by passing five of seven classes. All students must complete a physical examination before practice can begin.

If information is requested call Coach Polk @ 770-472-8429 any time during the day. You may call the school office @ 770-472-8400.

## KMS ENTERTAINS FUTURE SIXTH GRADERS

Kendrick Middle School played host to over 560 future sixth graders on Monday, May 14. Students came from six different elementary schools to see where they will attend school during the 2001-2002 school year.



Students were transported from their schools to Kendrick for a sampling of how middle schools operate. Students received a tour of the building, visited a question and answer session with a current sixth grade teacher, watched an orientation video of Kendrick Middle School, and attended a school assembly in the gymnasium to hear from the administration, counselors and current KMS students. The visiting students got a dose of that Kendrick Spirit when the COMET CHEERLEADERS led the students in two cheers they will learn well as Kendrick Comets.

One of the highlights was a performance of THE RATINGS GAME skit by several KMS students and teachers. The contestant explored the many opportunities available to Kendrick students and was asked to choose which activity would best suit their needs. Of course, the decision was too tough to make and the audience was asked to help. After hearing all of the benefits of Fine Arts, Athletics, and School Clubs, the contestant realized that all activities were winners.

Students received a package of information that described a normal day at Kendrick Middle School, a map of the school, a letter to parents about the coming year, often asked questions and answers, and a calendar for the first month of school in August. Students were given a start on fall school supplies when the KMS Cheerleaders gave all students Kendrick pencils.

The staff, administration, and counselors look forward to working with these rising fifth graders in the fall. Thanks to all who worked to make this a successful endeavor.

## KENDRICK SCHOOL COUNCIL FORMED FOR 2001-2002



The first edition of the Kendrick Middle School Council is being formed for school year 2001-2002. According to the Educational Reform Act of 2000, schools must have a School Council that serves in an advisory position to the school administration and faculty. Clayton County Schools have chosen KMS as a pilot school to enact this legislation for the 2001-2002 school year.

The law requires school councils to be comprised of two parents, two teachers, the principal, and two Business Partners. On May 15, parents were invited to attend the nomination and election of parent representatives. Ms. T'Leen Campbell and Mrs. were elected to serve on the KMS Council for the coming school year. Two teachers will be elected at a faculty meeting in May and two community business representatives will be elected in the fall.

According to Mr. Dunnivant, the KMS School Council will meet monthly and discuss the needs of the school. The members of the council will be able to make suggestions to the school administration in the matters of local school policy and procedures. This council will give parents and teachers an opportunity to have input into the planning and operations of the school.

## ORCHESTRA NEWS

The Kendrick Middle School Orchestra has made great strides during the 2001-2002 school year. The orchestra has played in several performances, both in school and out. The KMS Orchestra was proud to perform at the GMEA Large Group Festival this spring. The group was awarded all Superior and Excellent ratings. Congratulations to the performing members. Several members of the group participated in the Solo and Ensemble Festival where they also received Superior and Excellent ratings from the judges.



The Orchestra members were fortunate to attend two educational performances at Spivey Hall on the campus on Clayton College and State University. These visits allow students to observe performances of musicians that have achieved a high level of skill. This is a wonderful learning opportunity for our students. The KMS Orchestra looks forward to the new year and working towards building an even stronger and larger performance group of dedicated young musicians. We hope that all enjoy a wonderful summer!

## FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

This year in Family & Consumer Science has been an exciting time for all involved. They have learned many new concepts and created many wonderful projects. Students have learned about grooming, wardrobe, nutrition, babysitting, interior design, recipes, microwaves, sewing, and much more. Students have sewn pillows, basketballs, footballs, stuffed animals, and made beanie babies.

Students in Family and Consumer Science have also learned about clothing design. They have made vests, hats, and boxer shorts. Students have also learned to cross-stitch and latch-hook. Students have utilized the embroidery machine to personalize their projects. The new year will bring many new opportunities for students to be introduced to many more creative and educational aspects of Family & Consumer Science. Have a wonderful vacation! See you in August.