

ALICE DEAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Think globally. Listen compassionately. Act inclusively.

PTA NEWSLETTER

September 2007

www.dealpta.org

Jennifer Gruber, Editor



How Many Balls are Shown on the Roll of Sally Foster Gift Wrap?

Seventh-grader Lucas Copeland ponders his entry into the Sally Foster math literacy contest.

There is an estimation contest going on right now at Deal, sponsored by the Deal MathCounts chapter, and so far there have been hundreds of entries. The lowest guess as of Friday 9/14/07 is in the neighborhood of 35 balls, and the highest guess is twelve MILLION. The student with the closest estimate, or guess, or calculation of the total number of balls shown on the roll of Sally Foster Gift Wrap on display in the auditorium will win five pints of super-premium ice cream (such as Ben & Jerry's or Haagen-Dazs) in his or her choice of flavor. The second-closest guesser wins three pints of ice cream, and the third-closest guesser wins one pint.

Students are reporting that they are using a variety of methods. Some students state that they are purely guessing, but others are counting the number of balls going down one column and then the number of balls going across the paper, and multiplying. Others won't reveal their methods at all. Most of the guesses so far have been in the range of a few hundred to a few thousand. Students get to make a total of three entries. Any ball that is partially shown is considered to be a full ball. There are tennis balls, golf balls, baseballs, basketballs, two colors of soccer balls, and volleyballs.

The contest ends on Fri., Sept. 28th. Who will be the lucky guesser or most skilled estimator?

-- Mr. Brandenburg, Math Teacher

SALLY FOSTER WRAPPING UP

The Sally Foster sale is wrapping up, so you have a few more days to look over the catalog sent home with students. Take it in to work or around the neighborhood and invite out-of-town family and friends to surf the Sally Foster website. Every roll of gift wrap sold, every gift purchased, every box of chocolate selected helps Deal and its students. The PTA gets 50 % of all proceeds.

Continued on next page



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The construction work is going well. Heery International (Construction Management Co.) has been a great company to work with. They work hand in hand with the Deal administration and staff to problem solve all and any issues that come up on a daily basis. Heery will be starting to pour the footings for the new gym this week. Most of the rear site work is done or near done for the location of the new gym. Phase 3a (interior work) is also on target. Heery at present is overseeing twelve contracting/construction companies working on site. Inside our old building there's weekly air quality monitoring. Please check the Deal website at www.dealpta.org for the Heery Construction update.

-- Mr. Manuel Dacoba, Assistant Principal

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT REMINDER

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending Deal's "Back to School Night" on Thurs., Sept. 27th, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm. This is your first opportunity to meet your child's teachers and experience your student's 'day at Deal'. You'll learn the academic expectations for each of your child's classes and receive an overview of the year's curriculum. The Armand's pizza truck will be selling pizza beginning at 5:45 pm. Please be sure to attend this important event. This event is a 'parents only' evening -- we anticipate an enthusiastic turnout and classroom space (and seats) will be needed for parents. We look forward to seeing you on September 27th !

The next deadline for the Newsletter is:

Fri. Oct. 19th with delivery to homes by Oct. 26th. Please leave articles in the PTA Drawer in the Main Office or send them to Jennifer.gruber@starpower.net.

SALLY FOSTER WRAP UP *continued*

There are 58 distinctive gift wrap patterns for all occasions or holidays. Thirteen of the rolls are reversible giving two designs for the price of one. The catalog features kitchen bakeware, scented candles, jewelry, home décor, gifts for children, stationery, luxurious bath and body products, practical gadgets and tools, and delicious gourmet chocolates.

Reach out-of-town family and friends with online shopping at <http://www.sallyfoster.com/>. Orders are sent via UPS directly to the customer. **Any online orders more than \$60.00 will be shipped for free!** Remember to include our school's account number to receive credit, which is 507655. Log onto <http://www.sallyfoster.com/> for more information. The #1 seller will receive a \$50 I-Tunes card and the second place seller will receive a \$25 to Block-busters. The class with the most sellers will get a taco or pizza party. Final collection dates for the sale are Thurs., Back-to-School Night, Sept. 27th, and Fri., Sept. 28th. Order forms will be accepted through Oct. 5th by contacting Anita Seline, at amseline@aol.com or 237-5505. Pick up of non-Internet items is Thurs., Oct. 25th.



STUDENT COUNCIL HALLOWEEN PARTY FRIDAY, OCT. 26TH

The Student Council will sponsor a Halloween Party for Deal students from 4:30-7:00 pm on Oct. 26th. Students may purchase tickets for the party beginning Oct. 15th immediately after school in rooms 112 and 114 for \$4.00 each. The party will include scary movies, a DJ with age-appropriate dance music, costume contests and refreshments sold by the cheerleaders. Student Council will collect monetary donations from the US Fund for UNICEF to help support educational and medical programs for children around the world. Parents who wish to help chaperone and assist with staffing the coat room are invited to do so. Come join in the fun at the Halloween season. You will have a howling good time!

-- Ms. Cynthia Mostoller

HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING

Parents and students...It is not too early to be thinking about your high school options. Woodrow Wilson High School will start hosting Open Houses for prospective students and their parents on the following Fridays, from 9:00 am-11:00 am: Oct.19, Nov. 2 & 16, Dec. 7 & 21, Jan.11 & 25, Feb. 8 & 22, March 7 & 14, April 4 & 18. Academy applications will be available on line January 9, 2008 at wilson.org. To find out your boundary school go to www.k12.dc.us and click on schools. For school profiles including charter and private schools go to www.fightforchildren.org.

-- Ana Hernandez, 8th grade counselor
Telephone 373-8282



Flying in Zero G's



Over the summer, the Northrop

Grumman Foundation announced their Weightless Flights of Discovery program to US math and science teachers. "Weightless" sounded pretty interesting, so I applied to the program. Little did I know I would end up in a flight suit floating upside down at 34,000 feet above Earth on a random Thursday afternoon! I took my flight on September 13 out of Dulles Airport.

The program uses a modified Boeing 727 aircraft known as G-Force 1 to create reduced and zero gravity environments for the passengers inside. This type of flight is called a parabolic flight because the flight pattern forms a repeating series of parabolas (math term!) to produce the gravity changes.

At the top of a parabola, the plane and its passengers are in a free fall, just like a skydiver who hasn't yet pulled the parachute cord. Inside the plane, the passengers are protected from the on-rushing wind that a skydiver would feel. Instead, the passengers feel a gentle weightlessness for about 45 seconds per parabola. Parabolic flights were also used in the movie Apollo 13 for Tom Hanks' space scenes!

As the plane descends down the side of the parabola, the free falling passengers are "scooped up" from their fall and pulled into more intense gravitational experiences. At the very bottom of the parabola, passengers feel 1.8G's – a feeling that almost doubles a person's weight! It took a lot of strength just to lift up my head during this part!

Zero gravity was definitely unlike any feeling I have felt before. All of the teachers on-board turned into little children – giggling, laughing and screaming with excitement! The next closest thing I can think of to describe the feeling of zero gravity is the dropping sensation you get when an elevator starts to descend...except in zero gravity you actually float off of the floor and do spins and flips in mid-air! I also chased water globules around the plane and succeeded in drinking one, which definitely counts as one of those "once in a lifetime" experiences!

Our students have been fascinated by the video and pictures of the whole trip. My goal is to get them as enthusiastic about space exploration as I am because we need them in the field. Encourage your child to think outside the box about their future. America is facing a shortage of young people entering the sciences. I'm here at Deal to change that.

Ms. Wells, Science Teacher



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back for the 2007-2008 school year! We extend a special welcome to our new Vikings and their families.

The new school year is off to successful start. Not only do we have students from all over Washington, DC, we have students from Florida, California, Missouri, Peru, Albania, Korea, and Vietnam, to name a few. It is this wonderful diversity of students that makes Alice Deal Middle School such a special school community. This year is somewhat historic, since it is our first year as a middle school. We are also a smaller school community, with only 534 7th and 8th graders this year, down from 774 last year. This should allow us to get to know one another faster. Middle school is a time when students assume more responsibility for themselves. Here are three keys to guide them as they become more and more self-sufficient:

Get to school on time!

Students are welcomed into the building at 8:05 a.m. First period class starts promptly at 8:45 a.m. It is essential that students are in their seats with all of their learning materials ready to learn at 8:45. You can imagine the importance of establishing a morning routine with your child so that they are academically focused from the time they leave home in the morning.

Communicate, communicate, communicate!

Communicate with your child about their school work. Ask them what they are learning and how they are learning it. Ask them direct and specific questions about class work and homework as you review their agenda book. Also, communicate directly with your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns. Share with them your hopes and dreams for your children as well as behavior habits. Give teachers the opportunity to problem solve with you for the benefit of your child. This year, each team has an email address to make it even easier for parents and teacher to communicate.

Get involved and build community!

Our school is stronger when parents work together for the benefit of the total school. Get to know the parents of your child's friends, come to school events and get involved, and if you know of good opportunities for students or teachers, share! At the very least, join the PTA. You teach your children a valuable life lesson when you model civic participation.

I look forward to another successful and enjoyable year working with your children! When you are in the building, please introduce yourselves. I'm here to make Deal a successful journey for your child. See you at 6:30 p.m. Thurs., Sept. 27th for Back-to-School Night.

-- *Melissa Kim*



FROM THE PTA COPRESIDENTS

Welcome to Alice Deal's first year as a Middle School! We know the year has started with changes - only grades 7th and 8th for the next two years, changes to the

physical structure, and, for many of us, a new school community. What hasn't changed is Deal PTA's commitment to supporting the efforts of Principal Kim and Deal's teachers and staff as they offer our children a rich and academically excellent school experience.

The mission of the Deal PTA is to provide communication, through our website (www.dealpta.org), our listserv (dealpta-subscribe@yahoo.com) and this monthly newsletter; to sponsor community events, such as our first PTA meeting on Sept. 6th which gave parents a chance to ask Mrs. Kim lots of questions, ranging from "What's the status of last year's yearbook?" to "What are the rules for children's whereabouts after school?" and the upcoming International Night on Oct. 18th; and to provide financial support for activities that assist and enrich our children's development, such as the just-completed 7th grade Hemlock trips, the homework hotline, and peer mediation training.

One new initiative is the commitment of the PTA, Principal Kim, and the rest of the Deal staff to "Go Green". To kick off this campaign, the PTA is selling recyclable grocery bags for \$5.00 each. The bag has the Alice Deal Middle School name, motto, and Deal parent Lena Frumin's drawing of Deal. We'll be selling the bags at Back to School Night on Thurs., Sept. 27th, and at other events throughout the year. We hope you'll buy some grocery bags and proudly say, when asked if you want "paper or plastic," "Neither, thank-you, Just put my groceries in my Alice Deal Middle School bags!"

Another priority for the PTA this year is to improve our communication with Deal families that have parents or other members who are not native English speakers. PTA Vice-President Octavio Canas-Gustavo will be helping Principal Kim find ways to do this, and welcomes anyone who wants to be involved in this effort.

Please contact us, or any member of the Executive Board - Vice-Presidents, Suzanne Greenfield, Sharon Gillooly, Maggie Mackey, Octavio Canas-Gustavo, and Alison Wylegala, Co-Treasurers, Jim Spellane and Beryl Voigt, and Secretary Katrina Burt - if you have any questions about Deal or if you would like to volunteer. The Deal PTA can only be as effective as the volunteers who support it and so we invite all of you to join the PTA if you haven't done so already, to come to our monthly meetings and other school events, and to give your time and your financial support so that the Deal PTA can continue to provide those activities that have become Deal traditions, as well as establish new traditions as we enter this new era in Deal's history.

-- *Sally Greenberg & Ruth Ernst*

Sallyg@nclnet.org melickernst@verizon.net

BEST DEAL IN TOWN!

JOIN THE PTA AND SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

Thanks so much to the new and returning families who have already joined the PTA this school year. So far we have raised nearly \$7000 from about 130 families.

Money raised by the PTA funds classroom activities and supplies as well as the teacher grant program, sports, and drama. Last year we were able to purchase laptops for teachers. Donations also offset the cost of producing the school directory that all families will be given later this year. By donating you help continue the Deal tradition of having one of the largest PTA memberships in the city. High membership levels show that our parents are committed to excellence in education. Membership levels are:

Member	\$25
Contributor	\$35
Principal's Club	\$100
Deal Benefactor	\$250

The Deal PTA appreciates any contribution you can make. Membership envelopes were sent home in the first week of school. You can have your child return this (or any envelope) to their homeroom teacher or drop it in the PTA drawer in the office. You can also mail your contribution to:

Deal PTA
Alice Deal Middle School
3815 Fort Drive, NW
Washington, DC 20016

All donations are tax-deductible.

-- *Betsy Wiramidjaja*, Membership Coordinator

Betsy.wiramidjaja@starpower.net

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY WORKSHOP

WED. OCT. 10th 7:00-8:00 PM

Learn more about Deal's winning tradition in the National History Day program at a special evening workshop for parents and students on Wed., Oct. 10th from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. This year's theme is: *Conflict and Compromise in History*. The Department of Social Studies will feature student projects from past years and give parents and students new to Deal the opportunity to ask questions about theme, content, process and production of a successful project. Our school has earned a national reputation for outstanding achievement with our National History Day research projects, and this is the first step toward another successful year.



SEEKING BUDDING REPORTERS

We are looking for 7th and 8th grade students to write the weekly "School Dispatches" column about Deal that appears in the *Northwest Current* newspaper. The commitment will be writing 2-3 short paragraphs about something happening at Deal once a month. If you are interested in being a reporter please contact:

-- *Susan Ullman*, 966-8178 ullmansk@yahoo.com



MINUTES OF DEAL LSRT MEETING – Sept. 7th

Tom Israel reported that he and PTA co-chair Ruth Ernst had sent a letter to

City Council member Mary Cheh requesting her assistance in retaining the Reno School building in DCPS in order to add it to Deal to expand our instructional space. The historic building, located adjacent to the Deal campus, is currently unused and is being considered for turnover to the city government. Ms. Kim reported that Ms. Cheh has spoken to the mayor about the issue, and that the initial feedback has been positive. If everything falls into place, the Reno School building will be retained by DCPS and funds will be sought to allow the contractors working on Deal's renovation to renovate the Reno School building once they finish the primary Deal project. The LSRT would be involved in planning the most beneficial uses of the added space.

Updates on Opening of School

Ms. Kim reported that the current enrollment is 539 students. There is still room for additional 7th grade students and Ms. Kim encourages the LSRT to get this word out to families who would like to enroll seventh graders. Deal has already contacted all of the parents on the waiting list. Textbook are available for all classes, and for most classes there are sufficient textbooks to allow for a home and school copy. Staffing is set. The new seventh grade orientation (the Friday before school started) went very well. There was a large turnout of both students and parents, with a separate orientation for parents. Everyone seemed very pleased. Mr. Dacoba reported that construction work is on target. The footing for the new gym should be in next week. The contractors continue to work very closely with the administration. The noisiest work is being scheduled before or after the school day. Mark Simon commented on how much he appreciated the teacher and staff photos and profiles that are posted in the front hall. He noted that they really give our parents a good feeling for what a wonderful group of teachers we have at the school.

Updates on Deal's Pilot School Initiative

Ms. Kim then provided an update regarding the Pilot school grant. She gave a brief history of how we applied for the grant and successfully negotiated additional funding. The grant has funded two new positions: an Academic Coordinator and a Dean of Students. Ms. Suarez, the new Academic Coordinator will focus on ensuring that all facets of the curriculum are addressing the needs of all students, providing support to underperforming students, as well as serving as the school coordinator for the IB program. Ms. Spann, the new Student Dean will focus on student conduct, safety and related issues, such as implementing an in-school suspension program, as well as addressing tardiness issues. Karen McAdoo asked for an explanation of "in school suspensions." Ms. Kim and Mr. Dacoba

Continued on next page

LSRT MINUTES *Continued*

explained that these were suspensions intended to provide sanctions and consequences for disciplinary infractions while keeping children in school so that they could continue their academic program. Full scale out of school suspensions will still be available for students engaged in fighting or other serious infractions. Tom Israel asked if the LSRT could receive reports on how in school suspensions were working at future meetings. Mark Simon said he thought we also ought to set aside time at a future meeting for a more general discussion of how to promote a positive tone and effective discipline policy in the school.

Building an Inclusive Deal Community

As a result of LSRT discussions over the summer, Deal has begun working with the National Coalition Building Institute to enhance our efforts to ensure that our school is a welcoming and inclusive multicultural community. Ms. Kim reported on her meetings with Larry Bell of NCBI and on the workshop that he and NCBI had convened with Deal teachers and staff prior to the beginning of school. It was reported that this was a very successful workshop and that NCBI would also be training the student council and the student peer mediators to help them deal with issues of diversity and inclusion. Ms Kim indicated that later in the year NCBI would help conduct a full day discussion for the entire school and that she hoped that the PTA could help fund this effort and fund a video of this process that would capture how our children are thinking and talking about these issues. She also hopes that students who are trained this year can return as alumnae to participate in the training of students in future years so that eventually Deal can own this process. The NCBI will also organize some parent workshops for the Deal community as well. The LSRT expressed its continuing support for making such efforts a priority for the coming year.

A discussion followed on increasing the diversity of students in extracurricular activities and encouraging parents to help their children take advantage of all of the programs that Deal offers. Ms. Hampton suggested an assembly where the teachers who sponsor different activities and teams and diverse groups of students might tell what these were about and encourage students to participate. There was further discussion of the importance of communication with parents and the need to do a survey to determine how many parents did not have access to the web and to find funding to help them get access. Ms Hampton suggested that teachers might conduct this survey in the context of determining which students had access to computers to do assigned academic exercises. Ms. Kim said she would follow up with the faculty to accomplish this. She also reported that she was exploring ways to keep the computer lab open two days after school so that children who did not have computers at home could do assignments. Mr. Ngwa said he was looking into ways to help raise funds for children who could not afford to participate in the

foreign language department's trips abroad, and would welcome assistance from others. Ruth Ernst from the PTA volunteered to help.

Setting Other Priorities for the Deal LSRT for 2007/2008

Tom Israel asked those present to look at the sub-topics listed under this agenda item and suggested that we devote the majority of time at the next meeting to discuss and prioritize these issues.

- a. Expanding after-school academic support & enrichment activities
- b. Reducing tardiness and disciplinary problems (working with the Dean of Students)
- c. Increasing parental support for academic success at Deal
 - i. Parent survey (purpose, process, use...)
 - ii. Out-of-boundary parents (transportation issues, community mtgs.)
- d. Long-range academic planning (development of the IB program, expanding Deal's language program and access to it)
- e. Advocacy around proposed changes to Deal's enrollment boundaries

Those volunteering to do some initial background research included:

- Expanding after-school academic support & enrichment activities, and improving communication with parents about existing options – Karen McAdoo and Charles Lawrence
- Long-range academic planning (development of the IB program, expanding Deal's language program and access to it) – Ginette Suarez
- Parent survey – Tom Israel
- Possible addition of a Deal bus from NE and/or SE – Mr. Dacoba

Upcoming Agenda

The math department will join us in a meeting to discuss expanding access to algebra and creating a pilot "math reach-down program" with targeted feeder schools.

-- *Charles Lawrence*, Parent Representative



Deal's 2nd FAMILY MATH NIGHT will Blast Off

Wed. Oct. 3rd, 6:30 PM to 8:00 pm

Staff members, including the mathematics department, will show ways that parents and children can use a variety of math activities to have fun and learn math together. The list of activities is still being worked on at this time, but other Family Math Nights have included: playing with the Fibonacci sequence, learning how to use a spreadsheet to save a million dollars for retirement, the math behind fractals, math and origami (paper-folding), counting in different cultures and languages, using dynamic geometry software, counting to one billion, and much, much more. Come with your parents, children, and siblings, go to as many "stations" as you can, and have a blast with math!

Eighth Grade Goes to Jamestown and Colonial Williamsburg: Friday, October 12

Deal eighth graders will learn more about life in the early English Colonies when they travel with their teachers on a special one-day tour of Jamestown Settlement and Colonial Williamsburg on **October 12th**. Assignments for US History, English, Math, and Science are all part of this interdisciplinary program. The cost for the trip is \$70.00 and must be paid by **September 28th**. Families in need of scholarship assistance should contact Ms. Kim in writing. We hope every student will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to explore two of our nation's most notable historic sites for a hands-on experience with the past. Students will bring home a written itinerary and list of what to bring with them on **Friday, October 5**.

DEAL MENTAL HEALTH BEGINS 2nd YEAR

In the 2006-7 school year, we initiated the Deal Mental Health program. This is meant to provide mental health counseling to those who are not eligible for special education services (which has its own social worker). The counseling is separate from the school; therefore, there is complete confidentiality.

This is a joint endeavor with the doctoral program at Argosy University in Arlington. Last year's student (Barbara Smith) has moved on, being replaced by Cortney Brenner. She has experience working with young people and is enthusiastic about getting the opportunity to work with Deal students. She will be supervised by me, a licensed psychologist with 25 years of experience with children and families (and a former Deal Mom).

Referrals should be made through the student's grade level counselor. If you have other suggestions or questions, you can leave a note in Ms. Brenner's mailbox in the Deal office. You may also contact me using the contact information below.

-- *Mary L. Froning*

EMDRIA-Approved Consultant/Instructor

Tel. 244-9194 MaryFroning@compuserve.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Thurs. Sept. 27th Back To School Night 6:30-9:15

Thurs/Fri. Sept. 27-28 Gift Wrap Collection

Wed. Oct. 3rd Family Math Night 6:30-8:00 pm

Thurs. Oct. 4th PTA Board Meeting 7pm

Fri. Oct. 6th LSRT meeting 7:30-8:30am

Mon. Oct. 8th Columbus Day/NO SCHOOL

Tues. Oct. 9th Parent/Teacher Conferences

NO SCHOOL

Wed. Oct. 10th National History Day Workshop 7pm

Fri. Oct. 12th 8th Grade Field Trip (Jamestown/Yorktown)

Thurs. Oct. 18th International Night 7-9 pm

Fri. Oct. 19th Newsletter Submissions Deadline

Thurs. Oct. 25th Sally Foster Order Pick up

Fri. Oct. 26th Halloween Party 4:30-7:00pm



HELPING EACH OTHER LAND SAFELY

On Sept. 10th 7th grade's Group A went on the annual trip to Hemlock Overlook Center. A few days before our adventure, our teachers had told us stories about past trips. For example, at the peanut butter pit we would swing across a mud pit on a rope.

On the day of the trip, we were told that we would have to work together as a team in order to accomplish our challenges. By the end of this day, we'd know everyone in our groups as though they were our best friends. My team's first challenge was to walk ten steps on two long, narrow planks of wood. We all had to keep our feet on the wood and off the grass. Together we developed a plan, and put it to use. After a few tries, we learned to trust each other, communicate well, and eventually we walked ten steps successfully.

After lunch, our next challenge was to walk across three tigtropes, each one connected to the other by a tree. We came up with the idea that one person would get up and hold on to a tree. The next person would get up while the first person walked a step or two on the tigtrope. In order for person number one not to fall, person number two had to hold their hand. Slowly but surely we made our way across. Once the people in front were done, they spotted, or made sure that nobody got hurt. They were there to catch us if we fell.

The next challenge (and my favorite) was the zip line. Before we were allowed to ride on it, we had to learn the safety tips. We each wore a harness, a helmet, and a clip that held up to five tons. As each team member climbed up the ladder to the zip line, the next three people in line spotted for them. There a counselor hooked us up to the zip line, and held on to us until we were ready to go. The sight was amazing! It was as though we were riding on an invisible roller coaster.

Our next step was the peanut butter pit. When we got there, we realized you couldn't just reach over and get the rope that was dangling in the middle. Even the tallest person couldn't reach out and grab it. We all held on to one another's hands, and a tall person swung over and barely grasped it. We went over one at a time, and helped each other land safely on the other side.

Our experience at Hemlock Overlook Center taught us to trust our peers, even if we're not their friends yet. We learned to work as a team, and that it could be fun to do something with another kid you don't know.

-- *Joshua Bramble*, 7th Grade Team Aztecs

TEAM UNITED NATIONS

Situated on the third floor of the school building, the ESL Department has a diverse group of students. It is no exaggeration to say that the Department is a mini United Nations. So far this year, we have students speaking at least 11 languages and from 18 countries and territories and five continents: Vietnam, Korea, Burma, Bangladesh, Kosovo, Ukraine, Albania, Poland, Egypt, Nigeria, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Paraguay. Usually, as the school year progresses, we will also receive a few more students from other countries. Like their American peers, ESL students have many interests outside of school. They love sports and like to make friends too. Once you get to know them, you will find their experiences fascinating and that you have a lot in common with them.

-- Mr. Mark Winn-Ritzenberg

Mrs. Jihong Wang Team United Nations



Start Your Day Right!

As we head back to school, Deal would like to encourage families to make a healthy breakfast a part of your daily routine. Studies have demonstrated improvements in attendance, behavior and test scores when students eat breakfast. In addition to academic performance, studies have also shown that breakfast improves overall health benefits and decreases school absenteeism. By including foods with whole grains and proteins students can jump start their day and ensure that they have the energy to stay focused all morning long. Feel like there's not enough time to eat at home? Join us! Deal offers breakfast for students before school from 8:10-8:30am. -- Ms. Lerum, Science Teacher

NEWS FROM MS. SIMPSON-WAYNE, AMERICAN HISTORY TEACHER

- * My 8th grade American History class (SY 2006-07) was recognized in the *Project Citizen 2007 National Showcase*. The project topic Teen Pregnancy received an outstanding rating.
- * I participated in The Citizen and the Constitution Summer Institute serving as a mentor teacher.
- * I represented Deal as one of the five DCPS teachers in a summer focus group for the 8th grade *We The People* Tour.
- * I will be attending the annual Project Citizen Conference in San Francisco from Oct. 5-8.
- * Former Deal student Danny Thau on R&R leave from Iraq spoke to Ms. Simpson-Wayne's and Ms. Mostoller's class on Sept. 11th. Students engaged in an open discussion about a soldier's life in Iraq. Students will be sending their regards to Danny. Danny is currently a member of the Army Rangers whose job includes staffing a helicopter rescue team.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP SUPPORT STUDENT WRITING AT DEAL

We are looking for parents with writing and/or editing experience to collaborate with and support the writing program of our 7th and 8th grade teachers, under the coordination of English department chair Ms. Suarez. Our primary focus will likely be on working with small groups of students within their English classes, to provide critical feedback and coaching on classroom writing assignments -- so volunteers would need to be able to volunteer during the school day. Other volunteer options may include; providing feedback to students on drafts for essay contests throughout the year or presenting a lesson or workshop on a specific topic related to the students' writing instruction.

Last school year (2006-2007) we piloted this effort with about eight parent volunteers during the second half of the school year. We hope to build on that success during the 2007-2008 school year to help Deal Middle School be a center for writing excellence. We know that there are many talented people in the Deal community who could support this effort. The requirement is that you have training or skills in writing, and an interest in working with students. If interested, please contact: Steve Brescia (sbrescia@earthlink.net) or Alison Wylegala (arwylegala@aol.com).



DEAL'S EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



This listing is being updated, but here's a partial list of what students can get involved with before & after school:

Art Club Band Chess Club
Chess Team Chinese Club Chorus
Computer Club Drama Club Jazz Band
Manga Club MathCounts Peer Mediators
National Jr. Honor Society Newspaper, *The Real Deal*
Orchestra Peer Counselors Student Council
Recycling Club Stage Crew Yearbook Club
Swahili Fun Club Viking News Viking Web Masters

Fall Sports (Already started)

Boys and Girls Cross-Country
Boys and Girls Soccer (V and JV)
Cheerleaders (year-round)
Co-ed Fencing, Double-Dutch Team (year-round)
Girls Volleyball, Wilson J.V. Football

Winter Sports

Start date – November 1st
Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball
Boys and Girls Indoor Track, Wilson Boys & Girls Crew

Spring Sports

Start date – March 1st
Boys and Girls Outdoor Track, Boys Baseball
Co-ed Golf, Girls Softball, Intramural Basketball
Wilson Boys and Girls Crew, Wilson Lacrosse
Wilson Tennis

Music Department NEWS



- * Students: Its still not too late to be a member of one of the instrumental groups. Stop by the band room #109 and talk to Mr. Jackson.
- * The Concert Band meets every Monday and Wednesday mornings at 7:45am. The Jazz Band meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:45am. The Drumline meets on Wednesday during activity period and on afternoons that practice is scheduled. (Students will be given one week notice for these practices.)
- * The Music Department will take a spring trip to Chicago. Students will have the opportunity to play before judges and participate in a clinic that will enhance their level of musicality. Look for detailed information that will be sent home with participating students.
- * The 7th and 8th grade Chorus and a small Jazz Combo participated in the Student Council Induction Assembly on Sept. 11th.
- * The Chorus will sing the National Anthem at the Verizon Center on Oct. 10th to open the International Horse Show.

MathCounts is starting! MathCounts is starting!

If your child likes math, likes the idea of showing off what he or she knows, and/or just wants to learn more math in a non-traditional setting, we have the activity for him or her. MathCounts is a national math enrichment, coaching and competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement in every U.S. state & territory. Celebrating its 25th anniversary, MathCounts is also a very successful education partnership, involving volunteers, educators, industry sponsors and students.

MathCounts challenges students' math skills, develops their self-confidence, and rewards them for their achievements. We will have sessions after school twice a week, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:25 to 4:45 PM in room 216 with Mr. Brandenburg. During those sessions, we will explore many types of math problems and use computers, calculators, manipulatives, and plain old pencil and paper to try to figure out the answers and ways to solve them more easily. We also meet during long-homeroom activity period as well.

Some time in February or March, we will select a team or two to compete in various competitions against teams from other DC public, private, charter, and parochial schools. Here at Deal, we have had students and teams in the top ten nationally, and we are usually in the top three in the city. Who knows how we will do this year? (If your child hasn't already done so, urge him or her to pick up one of the permission slips from Mr. Brandenburg today. We'll work around other conflicts. Though, the more practices one can get in any activity, the better he or she will do.)

-- Mr. Brandenburg, Math Teacher

DEBATE TEAM HITS THE GROUND RUNNING

Mr. Hughes, the 7th grade Team Aztecs English teacher, has been joined by community volunteer and former Saint Ann's Academy teacher, Gina Gamble, and National Public Radio producer and Deal parent, Sue Goodwin in leading the Deal Debate Team in their second season. The three enthusiastic leaders spent a sunny fall Saturday in training at the University of the District of Columbia with teachers from around the region who sponsor teams in the D.C. Urban Debate League. They left the seminar excited about teaching young people the techniques of public speaking, careful listening, and critical thinking.

On Monday, Sept. 17th they were rewarded with an entire classroom full of enthusiastic boys and girls who hit the ground running with a series of fun activities that taught posture, listening, memorization, and supporting a position.

The season extends throughout the school year with competitions from September until June. Students do not have to compete to participate. Practices are Mondays after school in room 215 until 4:30 and during Bell II Activity periods. Interested students should see Mr. Hughes for a permission slip.

GIRLS SOCCER KICKS UP HIGH

Have you met the next champions of the DC Women's World Cup? You can find them on Monday and Wednesday afternoons at a makeshift field at Fort Reno. They are the Lady Vikings, Deal's girls soccer team with 17 future Ronaldinhas. Their first game is Sept. 28th. This year will be different from last year's season. DC Scores, an organization that sets up leagues for inner-city students, has created a new league for DC schools that we'll participate in. The season includes a fall season and possibly spring as well. We'll be in competition for a championship trophy. According to Mr. Ngwa, our coach, winning the trophy is a "requirement." If we prevail, we will be rewarded with...guess what? Frappuccinos! Our new league comes with new high class uniforms to go with our high class coach. We are really excited about this upcoming season and expect a shiny trophy in the case in December!

-- Julia Peck & Janie Velasquez
8th Grade Students



COME SUPPORT DEAL AND POLITICS & PROSE by buying books on Sat./Sun. Nov. 10th- 11th

Deal will receive 20% of the purchase price of all books purchased that day by the broader Deal Community. We will have lists of books requested by Deal teachers that you can purchase and donate to the classrooms. Volunteers are needed for 2 hour shifts for all the hours the bookstore is open that weekend. To volunteer or if you have any question please contact: Susan Ullman ullmansk@yahoo.com 966-8178

