

Terrier Times

Choose Excellence

From the Principal's Desk

Welcome back to a new school year at William Byrd Middle School. The building is busy again with students, faculty, and staff working on instructional goals and middle school activities. Everyone is excited and working diligently to make 2009-10 another great school year.

The administration and faculty look forward to working with the WBMS students and parents. I encourage you to be involved in your child's middle school experience and communicate regularly with teachers. The faculty is committed to working with students to prepare them for success. Your involvement is an asset to our instructional program and activities at WBMS. We offer a variety of resources and opportunities for students. Our school website, www.rcs.k12.va.us/wbms/, is updated regularly and provides information about student assignments, school activities, athletics, PTA, and more. Please note that you may access all classroom teachers' websites from this main location.

There will be four newsletters this year that will accompany your child's report card. Please take time to read through the information and note the date and time for our first **Parent/Teacher Conference Day on November 3 (12:00—7:00 p.m.)**. I am looking forward to working with you and your child this year. We are proud of our school and look forward to celebrating student achievement in the months ahead. Please feel free to contact me at any time. Have a great year!



Can't think of anything to get your student for Christmas?

William Byrd Apparel is the solution. New on our WBMS website, we are featuring all the coolest WB items the kids are wearing to school. Order forms will also be on line just click and print, send to school and we'll keep your order a secret and call you when they are here. Log onto: www.rcs.k12.va.us/wbms for your Christmas shopping needs. Questions? Contact Sandy Shelton 890-1035.

Nurse News

We are facing an unusual year of influenza-like illnesses and good hygiene is essential in preventing the transmission of viruses and bacteria. Ideally, best practice is to have tissues in every classroom for students use to cover their mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing. Hand washing several times a day is a must, especially before eating food, after touching door knobs and other accessible areas.

Wash your Paws!



Yearbook News

We are currently working on a website that will give you all the information you will need to order yearbooks, upload pictures, and order personal ads. Continue to visit for updates on the WBMS homepage. Yearbook Information will be in the right hand corner. Our widget should be up and running by October 31st. Be sure to check out the great pictures as well. If you have any questions or need help, contact Mrs. Sparks at 890-1035.

Library News

The library staff would like to welcome everyone back to WBMS!

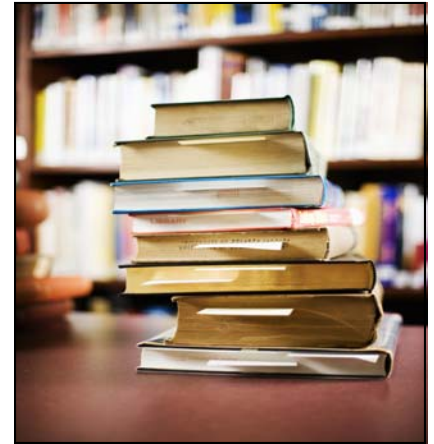
On October 30th, all seventh graders will be participating in Forensics Day. Students will rotate through a variety of forensic activities that include solving the crime, "The Pharaoh's Curse." Our newest activity this year includes using GPS units to find clues that are hidden outside.

Students are welcome to visit the library for additional time before first period, during lunch, or any class during the day. After-school library hours are every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon until 4:15 p.m.

The Terrier Mart book store is now open in the library. The store is staffed by students in grades 7 and 8. Items for sale include pens, pencils, paper, lead, rulers, glue, folders, binders, notebooks, and much more. Save a trip to the store by purchasing your supplies at the Terrier Mart.

The WBMS book fair will be held from November 3-9. Watch for the flyer coming home at the end of October. We have two open house times for parents to visit with their child - November 3 from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (parent-teacher conference day) and November 5 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Students will be participating in the fundraising program "ONE FOR BOOKS" again this year. Coins will be collected in the library and cafeteria this year. 100% of proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to put books in the hands of needy students and will go directly to the WBMS community.

Please be aware that we do have a Damage Policy because of the extensive damages that we incur every year. Our damage schedule is discussed with students at the beginning of every school year, is described in the student planner, and is posted on our website. For more information please stop by the library.



Musical Notes

The band and choral departments are off to a great start! The students have been working hard to get ready for our upcoming performances.

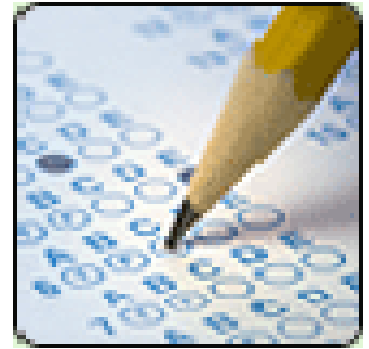
- 11/07/09 All-District Choir Auditions (6th-12th graders)
- 11/14/09 All-District Band Auditions
- 12/10/09 - Winter Band Concert - 6:00—8:00 PM (WBMS)
- 12/08/09 -Winter Choir Concert - 7:00—9:00 PM (WBMS)
- 12/17-18/09 - Winter Wonderland Concerts - 9:00-11:00 AM (WBHS)
- 1/15-16/10—All-District Band

For information regarding the band, please visit www.classnotesonline.com/teacher/chernault.



Understanding Your Child's SOL Results

Recently you received your child's SOL results from May 2009. Have you ever wondered what these scores mean? Here's a quick explanation: 600 is a perfect score, 500 to 599 is advanced proficiency, 400 to 499 is proficient (passing) and below 399 is failing. How are these scores used in middle school? We use a student's SOL score to assess how he or she has mastered a certain subject and for placement in classes. Do students have to pass an SOL test to be promoted to the next grade level in middle school? No. Do the scores on SOL tests in middle school count towards your child's diploma requirements? Only if they are taking a credit bearing course (which is usually taken in high school) in middle school such as Algebra I, Geometry, Earth Science, or World History.



Classroom Guidance

In September, all of the counselors visited sixth, seventh, and eighth grade classrooms to introduce ourselves and discuss the services we offer in our counseling department. Included in those visits was Mrs. Sharon Claytor, our SAP (Student Assistance Program) Counselor who reviewed highlights of the Roanoke County drug policy. In eighth grade, students learned about diploma requirements and how to calculate their G.P.A. Mrs. Jones has also started *Five Year Plans* with individual students. Be on the lookout for a copy of these plans to come home in the next several months. Overall, we plan to visit classrooms on a regular basis during the 2009-2010 school year. Topics to be covered include bullying, study and organization skills, career exploration, friendship skills, empathy, decision-making skills, and registration for the 2010-2011 school year.

You can reach us generally between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 890-1035. Counselors are Dr. Liz Moon (6th grade), Mrs. Lindsay Haniewich (7th grade), and Mrs. Lubeth Jones (8th grade). Please feel free to contact us with any concerns or questions regarding your student. We look forward to working with you this year.



Mark Your Calendars

On **January 19, 2010** there will be a parent meeting for rising 9th grade students and parents to discuss registration at WBHS (time TBA) and on **January 25, 2010** William Byrd Middle School will be holding its Registration Fair to discuss registration information for rising 7th and 8th graders. Look for more specific information as the event draws closer.

Holiday Assistance

If your family needs assistance at Christmas time, the Community Christmas Store is accepting applications. You must bring a photo I.D with your current address on it, proof of income, social security card, and proof of residency to the following locations on the following dates:

October 17 – Taylor Masonic Lodge (1200 Texas St. in Salem) from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

October 27 - Social Services Room 501 (StellarOne Bank Bldg in Salem) from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.

November 7 - Vinton Senior Citizen Bldg (820 E. Washington Ave in Vinton) from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

November 21 - Brambleton Center (3738 Brambleton Ave in Roanoke) from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please call Judy Grubb at 389-3700 with any questions.

Secondly, The Salvation Army has recently created a Christmas Assistance Hot Line. This line lets families know where to apply for assistance and what documents to bring when you do apply. Please call 966-7260 for more information.

WBMS Information and Procedures for 2009-10

Supervision—Because of limited supervision the building is open to students at 7:45 a.m. Please do not drop students off at WBMS before that time as there is no supervision available. Students should report to the cafeteria and remain there until dismissed at 8:10 a.m. to go to their lockers and then to 1st period. Unless a student is requested to remain by a teacher, coach, club sponsor, or principal, the building should be cleared by 3:20 p.m. Parents should pick up students who are not staying after school for an activity by 3:30 p.m. on the flag pole side of the building. Thank you for your cooperation

Phone Use/Cell Phones - We will allow students to use the office phones when they are sick or if one of their teachers has sent them to make a call. Please encourage your children to use their planners to remember important dates when food, money, projects, and special supplies are due. The policy regarding cell phones will be addressed in the Roanoke County Conduct Code. Be certain to give this section of the conduct code your attention.

Picture ID Needed to Check Out Students— We ask parents and others who come to school to check students out for any reason to present a photo identification. We regret any inconvenience that may be associated with this procedure, but we believe that the benefits to maintaining the safety and security of our children far outweigh the negatives. Be reminded that we do not release students to anyone who is not on the emergency card without contacting the parent of the student. If you send someone other than a person on the emergency card, and we cannot reach you, we cannot allow the student to leave.

Visitors - We are asking that if you come into our building for any purpose during the school day, you report to the main office, sign in, and receive a visitor's pass. Sometimes parents bring lunch to their child (although we ask that parents respect the integrity of our school lunch program), and because they know what time lunch begins, they wait at the cafeteria to deliver the lunch. We ask that you, too, report to the office, sign-in, and get a pass even if you will only be a few minutes. If parents would like to eat lunch with their child, please indicate this when signing in. Visitors are asked to sit with the student in a designated table in the cafeteria.

Medication—To protect the safety of all children from the misuse of medication, the policy of the Roanoke County School Board for administering medication is as follows: School personnel may administer medication to children ONLY when prescribed by a physician or dentist, and written parent permission and instructions are supplied to the school. In the past, the pharmacy label was accepted as physician authorization for the administration of prescription medications. Our new policy requires documented authorization by the physician. The new Medication Administration forms include a section for physician documentation. You may contact the school office for a copy (ies) of these new Medication Administration Form to take to your child's physician for completion. Parents must deliver the completed Medication Administration Form and the prescribed medication (in its original container) to the school in person. If over the counter (OTC) medication is required, it must be supplied to the school in the original container by the parent. Written parent permission must be provided with specific directions for administration. Exceptions to these regulations may be necessary depending on individual circumstance. Exceptions may only be authorized by the principal or designee.

Recycling News

We here at William Byrd Middle School are recycling everyday. We are recycling plastics 1 and 2, aluminum cans and foil, and mixed paper. We recycle during lunch and in the classrooms. Outside in the loading dock is a giant recycling truck from Cycle Systems. We fill this truck each week. They come to empty it each Tuesday morning. The public is more than welcome to throw their recycling into this truck. Come fill the truck! We are also collecting Box Tops that are located on several products from Pillsbury and General Foods as well as others. We as a school get money for these Box Tops. Please bring them into the office where we have a collection booth. Pink lids from Yoplait Yogurt are also collected outside the office in a big pink box. These lids will be mailed to Yoplait to support Breast Cancer research. One more thing we collect...Aluminum Tabs...these are given to Ronald McDonald House to help families dealing with cancer. Last year we collected 40 lbs. of tabs! We would love to beat this record this school year.



Club News

HAM RADIO: Mrs. Ferguson is sponsoring the Ham Radio Club after school on Thursdays from 3:10-4:30 p.m. We have so much fun talking to people from around the world digitally through radios, as well as through stationary radios. We learn all about phonetics, Morse code, and how to operate the radios. The week of October 20-24, we conducted the School Club Roundup, which is a national competition to make the most contacts via the radios at school for the week. Become a hammie; it is a lot of fun and anyone is welcome to come join us!

MILE CLUB: Mile Club is up and running...Mrs. Iler, Mrs. Roy, Mrs. Boxler, and Mrs. Reed have been running and/or walking with about 30 students every Tuesday after school from 3:20 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. They run or walk the greenway, the track or inside the school if the weather is rainy or cold. If you are interested, see Mrs. Iler for a permission slip.

ROBOTICS CLUB: The robotics club is a kid-centered program to inspire and engage students in hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering and math. Students are divided up into groups and are given LEGO Mindstorm kits. They learn the basics about robotics, their servos, and the many sensors. Groups also explore the basics about programming the robots to accomplish specific tasks. One group will be selected to compete in a state-wide competition in November, hosted by the First LEGO League. The club sponsors are Mr. Iler and Mr. Palazzola. The club meets in the Tech Ed room Mondays & Wednesdays from 7:30 -8:15 a.m. and Tuesdays & Thursdays from 3:15-4:30 p.m.

PREVENTION CLUB: This is a club open to all grade levels. We meet periodically during lunch time and work on keeping our students safe by educating them about risky behaviors. One activity our 7th and 8th grade prevention club members already completed was a locker magnet project at the high school. We had about 1200 magnets with a message about underage drinking, that our prevention club member placed on lockers all around the high school. Anyone is welcome to join the prevention club at anytime throughout the year.



Food Service Program

Studies show that students who eat breakfast have improved academic performance, lengthened attention span, and better behavior. We offer a nutritious menu with variety and appeal served in a pleasant environment under staff supervision. Encourage your child to start his or her day off with a good breakfast. During the 2009—10 school year, the cost for meals will be as follows:

Student Breakfast - \$1.00 / Reduced Price Breakfast—\$0.30

Plate Lunch (including milk)—\$2.00/ Reduced Price Lunch—\$0.40

Milk—\$0.50 **(Please note that these prices are subject to change)**

The cafeteria will take money or checks to be deposited in each student's account. Checks or cash for accounts should be turned in on Monday morning or the first day back after any scheduled break.



A Glimpse into the Classroom

Teachers and Students Hit the Ground Running

In English classes, students have been busy writing narratives and studying the parts of speech. Some students have been participating in Video Vocabulary by making skits to aid in the recall of vocabulary. Novels studied throughout the grade levels include [Devil's Arithmetic](#), [A Night to Remember](#), [The Giver](#), [Where the Red Fern Grows](#), [Something Upstairs](#), [Freak the Mighty](#), [Manic Magee](#), [The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle](#), [Tuck Everlasting](#), and [The Yearling](#). The Pre-AP students will be working with the Gifted Specialist on a creative writing activity at the end of October thru beginning of November.

During the first nine weeks, students have been working hard in math classes. Sixth graders have already covered whole numbers and decimal operations. They have also studied statistics and probability. In the seventh grade classes, students have learned about decimals, fractions, integers, and properties. Math 8 students have learned how to simplify expressions and solve multi-step equations. Students enrolled in algebra have

learned how to solve multi-step equations and inequalities. Geometry students have been busy learning about points, lines, angles, and proofs. Peer tutoring for math is available on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. The students work in the library from 3:15 – 4:15 p.m. If your child is having difficulty in math, encourage them to ask his/her math teacher about the program.

Sixth grade science students have just finished an in depth study of the scientific method. Students learned about variables and hypothesizing. We will now be starting on matter and with this unit will come several fun and exciting lab experiments. All sixth grade classes have been utilizing technology to both test and review and are doing a great job so far this year!! Seventh grade science students are working on their leaf projects and Pre-AP Students are working hard on the Science Fair. We are anxiously waiting for the arrival of the trout eggs as we are raising trout this year in the classroom. It's hard to believe that we are almost at the end of the first nine

weeks. Time flies when we are learning and having fun. In eighth grade science classes, students finished up the units on Lab Safety, Scientific Investigations and are in the process of finishing the unit on Metric Measurement. Our upcoming unit will be on speed and acceleration. From there we will cover Newton's 3 laws of motion. On Wednesday, October 14, 2009, students were visited by a representative from the U.S.S. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Chief Petty Officer Jason Kjos. CPO Kjos has spent the past 19 years working on the flight deck dealing directly with the safety of personnel and equipment. During his visit students learned how an aircraft carrier stays afloat using principles of volume and density. They also identified different forms of energy as pictures were shown of what happens on an aircraft carrier above and below the flight deck. Our guest speaker was available for students to ask questions about his job and life in general on board the Ike. We are extremely grateful to CPO Kjos for taking time from his schedule to stop by WBMS for a visit.

Civics classes have recently concluded learning about the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights. This plan for our national government outlined the framework for our democracy; and has served as the backbone of the United States since its adoption in 1787. This makes the U.S.A. as having the longest continuous form of government in the modern world. Our Bill of Rights (Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Religion, Right to a Fair Trial, Right to Bear Arms, etc) was insisted upon by Virginia's own Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and George Mason to protect our individual liberties from the federal government and was needed to assure passage of the U.S. Constitution. Our Civics classes have also debated immigration issues and are learning the naturalization process. Many classes have even tried the Citizenship Exam. Later in the fall, Civics classes will be learning about our political party system, voting regulations and following the gubernatorial election in Virginia. In year's past the students have investigated various third party political parties and had opportunities to develop platforms and campaigns for their own. Soon after, our classes will begin a more in-depth look into the three branches of government. Sound exciting . . . rest assured, we'll make it so. In 6th grade United States History students have been studying Geography, American Indians and European Exploration. Students have done a GREAT job using the laptops to create flyers and songs about the American Indians.

The students at WBMS get a great physical education in health and p.e. classes. The 6th and 7th graders are being introduced to units on softball and cooperative games. The 8th graders are being introduced to individual sports. One class is on the bicycles, beginning on the stationary riders, then riding on the track, and finally moving on to the Greenway. The other classes are learning to swing a golf club, using our "birdie ball" equipment for instruction. All classes rotate so they are introduced all of our activities. Health education started on September 28 with all grade levels receiving new textbooks. Classes are on a weekly rotation, always changing on Mondays. All students are being introduced to units on exercise and physical education. **FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION (FLE)** will begin November 9. Parents, if you wish to view this material, please drop by our library. After viewing this material, and you wish to "opt out" your child, please contact your child's teacher.

Student Assistance Program

We've had a great start to the year! I've been going to each class, with your student's guidance counselor, discussing the Roanoke county Drug and Alcohol Policy as well as allowing them to sign up for small groups related to a variety of social and emotional issues. Some groups will begin soon and you will receive an information/permission slip about the group before your child can participate. To find out more about the groups offered please check out the SAP link on the WBMS homepage.

Upcoming Events- RED RIBBON WEEK! October 26-30

Red Ribbon Week originated in 1985 when a US DEA officer was kidnapped and brutally murdered. Enrique "Kiki" Camarena had been on an undercover assignment and was days away from identifying a major drug ring. The red ribbon was designated as the symbol of intolerance of illegal drug use and a commitment to live a drug free lifestyle. It is now an ongoing national campaign with the last week in October being designated as Red Ribbon Week.

During this week our school will have various themes, activities, and competitions. Be on the lookout for each day's themes.



WBMS Athletic Announcements

The athletic teams are off to a great start this year. The coaches are excited and it seems to be rubbing off on the students. We recently concluded the fall season and the winter season is underway. Both boys and girls basketball teams have been selected and have begun practicing for the season. We'd like to welcome the boys and girls basketball coaches, both of whom are starting their first year with the terriers. Amanda Roy will be leading the girl's team and Andrew Thacker will be leading the boy's basketball for the 2009-10 season. Wrestling begins practice November 16. For more information about middle school athletics, take time to view the athletics section of the school website. Below is a listing of the basketball and wrestling schedules. For basketball, the girls will play first on Mondays, boys will play first on Thursdays. Start times are 4:45 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. Wrestling matches begin at 4:45 p.m.



Wrestling Schedule

- 12/3 Ben Franklin—AWAY
- 12/09 Hidden Valley/ Staunton River—HOME
- 12/16 Central Academy—AWAY
- 1/6 Northside—HOME
- 1/11 Read Mountain/Staunton River—HOME
- 1/20 Glenvar—AWAY
- 1/27 Cave Spring—HOME
- 1/30 Northside Invitational NMS

Basketball Schedule

- 11/2 Andrew Lewis (S) ALMS
- 11/05 Central Academy - HOME
- 11/09 Cave Spring—AWAY
- 11/12 Read Mountain—HOME
- 11/16 Northside - AWAY
- 11/19 Hidden Valley —HOME
- 11/23 Ben Franklin—AWAY
- 12/3 Central Academy—AWAY
- 12/7 Cave Spring (Boys) — HOME
- 12/8 Cave Spring (Girls) - HOME
- 12/10 Read Mountain—AWAY
- 12/14 Northside—HOME
- 12/16 Staunton River —HOME
- 12/17 Hidden Valley—AWAY



Attention 8th Grade Parents



Coming up soon your students will be learning about two 9th grade opportunities: Specialty centers and Arnold R. Burton programs. Specialty centers are programs held at Arnold R. Burton in certain areas: Engineering, Art, Dance and Mass Communications. The Marketing specialty center is actually held at William Byrd High School. Arnold R. Burton Technology Center provides courses in the areas of technology and the arts that are not available at the five county high schools. Here are important dates regarding the application process:

- November 6—Students will hear a presentation on the Specialty Schools.
- Mid-November -Specialty school center applications available from Mrs. Jones.
- November 9—Specialty Center & Burton Programs Open House at Arnold R. Burton at from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- December (prior to holiday break)-Specialty School applications due to 8th grade counselor (Mrs. Jones).

In addition, if students are currently enrolled in Algebra I or Geometry this year, they will hear a presentation about the Governor's School program located on the Patrick Henry High School campus in Roanoke City. Governor's School is an opportunity for students interested in taking higher level classes in Math, Science and Technology. Here are important dates coming up:

- November 18—Students will hear a presentation about Governor's School.
- January 2010—Mandatory meetings for interested students & parents at Governor's School.
- February—Governor's School applications due to 8th grade counselor (Mrs. Jones).

Organization Tips for Students and Parents

Here are some helpful hints to keep your student organized and making good grades:

1. Students need to use their planner on a daily basis for writing down homework, quizzes, tests, projects, important lists and any notes to parents.
2. Use dividers to separate subjects in the binder.
3. Place homework in one place in the binder or have a separate folder just for homework.
4. Keep your locker neat---books in one place and notebooks/binders in another place.
5. To make sure assignments get home, have students place homework and/or textbooks from each class in their backpack as they leave each class.
6. Students need a designated study space at home.
7. Stay on a daily routine for homework and projects.
8. Pack your backpack before you go to bed and keep in the same place every night.
9. Use the WBMS website to keep track of your child's homework.
10. Designate one day a week to help clean out papers from your child's binder.

