

FALCON FLASH

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Important Testing Dates

Test Name	Grade Level	Dates
CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test)	8 th	October 9-11, 2006
ITBS (Norm Reference Test)	8 th	October 18-24, 2006
Georgia Writing Assessment	8 th	January 17, 2007
IAAT (Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test)	7 th	February 6, 2007
Gateway Testing (Math & Language Arts)	7 th	April 10-11, 2007
CRCT (Criterion-Referenced Competency Test)	6 th , 7 th , & 8 th	April 18-24, 2007

Platinum Award Recognizes Academic Success



Dacula Middle’s latest statewide award for academic excellence spotlights further gains by DMS students. Principal **Kellye Riggins** announced recently that the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement had awarded DMS its prestigious **Platinum Award** for 2006. DMS received the award for *Greatest Gain in Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding Standards*.

“We meet the criteria in 16 out of the 16 areas measured,” said **Mrs. Riggins**. The criteria were developed comparing the most recent two years of CRCT scores on all subtests for Full Academic Year students. The combined results from all grade levels and subtests, compared to the previous year represented a 2.49 percent gain. This change was at or above 99.08 percent of all Georgia middle schools.

Dacula Middle, earlier awarded a Georgia School of Excellence distinction, is recognized as one of Georgia’s top performing middle schools. “I have always known what an outstanding staff we have at DMS,” **Mrs. Riggins** said. “Now the rest of the state of Georgia knows, too.”

DMS Teacher of the Year

Band Director Makes Positive Difference

Terri Wiley knew from a young age she was destined to teach.

Dacula Middle’s Band Director, honored as the 2006-07 Teacher of the Year, shares her story.

“My inspiration for wanting to be a teacher first began when I was young. Both of my parents were educators, my mom just a couple of years ago retired from the Buford City School System, and my father was the principal at Buford Elementary prior to his death, so teaching was just something I knew I wanted for my career. As a child I would watch the affect my parents had on their students and I wanted to share and be the same type of inspiration for my students.

“I have the pleasure of living my childhood dream....”

This is my 16th year of teaching and it still seems like it only began yesterday. I have had the pleasure of teaching a great number of wonderful students; many have chosen professions in the business field, education, the military, and some are even professional athletes. When I see them now as adults, I think to myself, ‘Wow, they were one of my students.’

Our students are ever changing and I am continually working to grow and develop as a person, as a teacher, and as an educator.’

Student Support Initiatives

Team Time, GAP Successful

Student learning and personal achievement are the focus for *all* at Dacula Middle this year. Two school-wide programs are now midway through the first semester.

Team Time, an hour long academic period each Thursday, engages students in lessons designed to either re-teach or enrich specific Academic Knowledge and Skills (AKS). Connections teachers and administrators join with academic teams across the campus to work weekly with small groups of students.

See Support, page 4

See Terri Wiley, page 6

Media Specialist's Corner

Popular Resource Center Open for DMS Parents

The DMS Media Center now contains a special shelf of books and other resources for DMS parents to check out. The new Parent Resource Center is open thanks to the support of the Dacula Middle PTA. Media Specialist Sue Baum calls the collection "wonderful" and shared some of the resources available for checkout. Featured new titles include *Raising a Good Sport in an In-Your-Face World*; *The Hurried Child*; *Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys*; *Odd Girl Out: The Hidden Culture of Aggression of Girls*; and *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens*.

Accelerated Reader Information Available Online

If you are home or at the public library and you want to look up our DMS Accelerated Reader (AR) list, you can now easily customize your own list, based on level, points, and subject. How?

Go to the DMS homepage (www.daculamiddleschool.org) — then click on *Technology* — then *Accelerated Reader*. You can search for books in a certain reading level, by a certain author, or even about a particular subject. **No password is required.** Try it!

Student Projects Advance at International Media Festival

Several multimedia projects produced by Dacula Middle Students advanced to the national level at the 2006 International Student Media Festival, held in Dallas, Texas this month.

Several strong projects created by students in CREATE and RealTech last spring were submitted for evaluation and judging by media specialists at the Gwinnett County level. Those deemed superior moved to statewide judging. Projects that scored highest at the state level were sent to the national competition for evaluation.

Kelsey Williams's video, "Romanov Deaths" related the tragic story of the assassination of Russian's Czar Nicolas II and his family. She narrated the video in a Russian dialect of an eyewitness to the murders. Kelsey worked in several software programs, including Fireworks, iMovie, and Sound Studio. **Brandon Stirrup, Lauren Greene, Sarah Steffes, and Lori Nichols** produced a live action DVD featuring eighth graders across the school making a positive difference in their lives and the lives of others. It was inspired by a favorite quote of humanitarian and Oscar-winner Helen Keller.

A narrated Flash animation produced by **Lauren Greene** and **Rachel Wall** was inspired by the second of Sean Covey's *Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens*: "Define your mission and goals in life." Other multimedia projects noted as excellent included an interactive PowerPoint mystery by **Rachel Gordon**, "The Case of the Missing Horse," and an historical-themed PowerPoint game, "The House of War," by **Megan Scott** and **Jennifer Barron**. PowerPoint animations by RealTech students featured a variety of exciting themes. **Kate Whitmire's** dramatic "Force Flux Flight" animation also advanced to national competition in Dallas.

CREATE is a project-based honors technology course linked to academic disciplines. RealTech is an honors computer science course linked to business education and life skills.



NEWS FROM THE MEDIA CENTER

Fall Scholastic Book Fair set for November 9-20

Wide Selection Available During the Sale

An event the entire Dacula community enjoys returns during November. It's about books. It's about your children. It's about fun! It's our Scholastic Book Fair for our entire school community, to be held in the DMS Media Center for two weeks prior to the Thanksgiving break.

As usual, your children will be bringing home a colorful flyer that lists just a few of the exciting titles in our fair. You can also surprise your child's teacher or teachers with a Book Fair Gift Certificate. Watch for details and an order form to come home with the Book Fair flyer. All students will attend the fair with their Language Arts teacher sometime during the event. You are also invited to come by and see what we have to offer.



Open All Day Throughout the Book Fair

The Book Fair will be open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. throughout the event and until 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 16 during DMS Family Night. Sales tax is not charged during the DMS Book Fair. Cash, checks (made payable to DMS) or Visa cards will be accepted.

Book Fair Volunteers Welcome

We still welcome volunteers to help throughout the Book Fair. Just call **Mary Decker** at 770-338-4641 if you would like to volunteer.

Media Center Open For Research in Mornings

The Media Center is open to students for research each weekday at 8:30 a.m. (except Wednesdays). Students should have a note in their agenda book about the assignment, signed by a teacher. All students may check out books from the media center on weekdays, beginning at 9 a.m.



Sixth Graders

Seventh Graders

Eighth Graders

September

Grayson Lee
Austin Bargeron
Hannah Allen
Grayson Clotfelter
Britney Simonton
Molly Crowe
Emma Dennard
Savannah Reymann
Randall Resulma
Conner Brock
Colleen Hansen
Madison Hurmence
Geoffrey Lingernfelter
Jared Martin
Amanda Camp
Alex Ponikarski
Amanda Simon
Patrick Leary
Andrea Dominguez
Jamyal Dalton Slaughter
Matthew Beyatt
Veronika Vratcheva
Tyler Patrick Moore
Damiel Antimie
Natalia Gonzalez
Shelby Hope



October

Alex Butenko
Shaina Simpson
Kenny Cook
Rob Hall
Brosnan McClendon
Tyler Fischr
Alissa Luthart
Jesus Garcia
Ayelara King
Maribel Salazar
Hunter Cole
Alyssa Polack
Sade Fisher
Diana Solano
Kaylee Hennelly
Larissa Parr
Alex Matthews
Kayla Browder
Christina Cedeno
Emily Little
Hannaah Collins
Austin Bannister
Abigail Dillon
Melissa Sinishtaj
Andrew Udell
Jocelyn Soriano

September

Allison Touche
Amanda Preteroti
Brenda Correa
Carson Barnes
Chloe Fitzgerald
Clarissa Morales
Danielle Brooks
Din Regis
Fredrick Hudson
Jennifer Hopkins
Jessica Mills
Juanye Roberts
Karen Cruz
Michael Rushton
Mikaila Casteel
Tanya Bornstein
Tara Haddock
Tina Thomas
Wil Bryant



October

Adam Hiten
Alix Blakemore
Andrea Ampuero
Anishah Pradhan
Brad Stevens
Chris Ficklin
Cody Sulek
Courtney Holland
Cynthia Barnes
Emily Ferguson
Heliseo Goicochea
Jennifer Ebitz
Judea Graves
Kirby Wright
Leighton Eldridge
Mariah Bowen
Meghan Bush
Michelle Canant
Ruva Chimedza
Sunshine Her
Uriel Huerta
Valerie Thakkar
Vasile Lupu
Victoria Dorsey

September

Katherine Anderson
Alexandria Armah
Corneal Barker
Austin Bedingfield
Allison Feeley
Alex Frazer
Jacob Fuller
Amber Landry
Brittany NcConnell
Ashley Metz
Jessica Metz
Trevor Mitchell
Agbolla Oluwseyi
Donovan Paul
Rachel Phillips
Matthew Pogue
Callie Rowe
Brooke Serrano
Michael Sherk
Chloe Stegman
Victoria Tuggle
Leah Young



October

Elizabeth Thomas
Javier Cruz
Josh Heller
Mary Wallace
Lisa Sunny
Leah Lukens
Peter Russell
Eric Sen
Katie Rice
Josh Legg
Brittany Cooper
Shubam Sharma
Ethan Banner
Tripp Calhoun
Katherine Conklin
Chelsea Brown
Sohaib Iqbal
Alex Saladin
Savannah Work
James McMillian
Taylor Owens
Kimba Douglas
Brade Gilleland
Ethan Banner
Karen Ortega
Brittany Swanson

DAC Foundation Builds Endowment Fund

The Dacula community cares greatly for its young people. The Dacula Academic Community Foundation (DACF), a community-based organization established in 2005, provides a mechanism through which community resources can be directly allocated to the Dacula Cluster of schools: Dacula High, Dacula Middle, Alcovia Elementary, Dacula Elementary, and Harbins Elementary.

The DACF vision is simple: To positively influence the growth and development of the Dacula community by emphasizing quality public schools.

The DAC Foundation offers businesses, developers, and individuals the opportunity to make *tax deductible* donations to its school endowment fund. This fund, presently held by the Community Foundation for Northeast Georgia, will grow from year to year. The fund provides the basis for grants to be awarded to Dacula Cluster teachers and principals.

Teachers in Dacula Cluster schools applied for grant funds this month to fund innovative and creative programs for their school's learners. Each grant application is reviewed and funds awarded as available and appropriate. Watch for announcements of the 2006 grants recipients. For more information, visit:

<http://www.dacfoundation.org/>



DMS faculty are involved in many professional learning seminars this year. Some of the book study highlights:

The Essential 55 and *Excellent 11* centers on works by **Ron Clark**. These book

studies focus on rules for discovering the successful student in every child and qualities that teachers and parents can use to motivate, inspire, and educate children. **Ruby Payne's** *Framework for Understanding Poverty* looks closely at poverty and seeks to learn what can be done by educators to help. *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens* examines how the seven habits can be infused into the DMS curriculum.

TRANSPORTATION TALKS

From

Vickie Otting
GCPS Transportation Office



“...Part of the teaching process is, as our Moms might say, “Actions speak louder than words.””

Everyone Responsible for Safety

Your child’s education does not happen just in their classroom. It also happens on the big yellow school bus. Your bus driver is an integral part in the daily process of educating your child. Part of the teaching process is, as our Moms might say, “Actions speak louder than words.”

Gwinnett County school bus drivers teach your child safety by teaching the posted school bus rules, by following all traffic laws, and by reminding your child to arrange seating in ways that promote safe travel.

Our drivers teach the importance of being courteous by using the words please and thank you. Our drivers teach discipline by giving your child an assigned seat, by expecting your child to follow the bus rules and by asking your child to load and unload their school bus correctly. Our drivers teach respect by asking your child to speak quietly and with their “seat mates,” by asking your child to use positive words while they are on their school bus and by expecting your child to follow the directions of their school bus driver. We want your child’s school bus ride to be pleasant, so that your child can begin his school day with a smile on his face and a positive attitude in his heart.

Gwinnett County Transportation’s most important goal is to safely transport your child to and from school. It is also important that we provide a safe and orderly environment on your child’s school bus so that your child feels safe and secure on our school buses.

Gwinnett County Transportation’s community theme for the 2006-07 school year is, “Bus Stop Safety Everyone’s Responsibility.” The “everyone” in our theme includes parents, students, school bus drivers, and school administrators. All are working towards one goal: To educate your child and to keep your child safe. Together we make it happen!



Magazine Fundraiser A Success

The annual Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Magazine Fundraiser was a success this year. Student magazine and music sales, which began Labor Day weekend, exceeded the 2005 sales totals by several thousand dollars. Congratulations to DMS families for supporting our school’s efforts.

Reptile World Opens Cultural Arts Series

7th graders to experience reptiles up close



Michael Shwedick has introduced America to the fascinating world of reptiles. One of America’s leading reptile wildlife educators, Michael’s

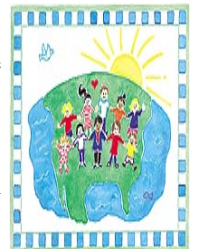
program has educated and entertained more than 10,000 audiences. He performs in Dacula on November 6, 10:45 a.m. to noon.

Featured in magazines like *National Geographic WORLD* and in hundreds of newspaper articles throughout the USA, **Mr. Shwedick** instills a marvelous respect for both reptiles and his audiences. The Reptile World program gives DMS seventh graders the opportunity to meet an interesting selection of live, large, colorful, and gentle reptiles from all over the world. Students will enjoy discovering what reptiles are, what makes them different from birds and mammals, and how important they are in our environment. Many of the myths and misconceptions are dispelled, instilling a greater appreciation and understanding of these fascinating reptiles. Reptile World is sponsored by the DMS PTA Cultural Arts program.

Support...continued from Page 1

GAP Program Expanded

The Great Advisement Program (GAP) has been expanded this year to include all students. Advisement lessons focus on study skills, organization, test talks, test taking strategies, goal setting, and personal monitoring of academic progress. Students meet with their faculty advisor seven times during the school year. The goal of *Team Time* and GAP is to give all students the opportunity to reach their maximum potential.



DMS Clubs and Activities Enrich Student Experiences

2006-07 Club Meeting Schedule

Students active in various organizations



Several extra-curricular clubs are active this year to involve students in service projects, personal growth, and social opportunities. The **DMS News Team**, a morning TV program, meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8:30-9 in the Media Center. The **Etiquette Club**, for students interested in polishing their manners and social interaction skills, meets Tuesday and Thursdays from 4:30-5:30 in room 10.319. Students who enjoy chess meet with the **Chess Club** each Thursday from 8-9 a.m. in the Media Center. The **Running Club** meets each Thursday in Room 8.107 to run at the park from 4:30-5:30. The **Keyboard Club**, for those interested in piano, meets the first Monday of each month 8:30-9 in Room 1.102. The **Yearbook Staff** meets each Monday from 8-9 a.m. in Room 7.238. The **Breakfast Club**, for book readers, meets the second and fourth Mondays each month,

8:15-9, in the Media Center. The **Art Club** meets the third Tuesday of each month from 4:15-6 p.m. in Room 10.236. The **Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)** meets the first and third Thursday, 8-9 a.m., in the Fitness Room. The **International Club** meets on the first Thursdays, 8:15-9 a.m., in Room 10.223. The **4-H Club** meets the second and fourth Thursdays, 8-9 a.m., in Room 7.122. **Student Council** members meet the third Thursday of each month, 8-9 a.m., in Room 10.308. **Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)** meet the first and third Friday monthly, 8-9 am., in Room 7.125. The **Environmental Club** meets the second Friday of each month, 8:30-9 a.m., in Room 8.137. **Beta Club** members meet the last Friday of each month, 8:15-9 a.m., Room 7.231. **Knitting Club** members meet Fridays, 8-9 a.m., in Room 10.242.

JOIN THE FUN!

4-H Club: It's for Everyone!



4-H is an exciting educational enrichment program for all DMS students. The club helps young people become self-directed, contributing, and productive members of society.

The 4-H club at DMS, advised by Family and Consumer Sciences teacher **Lori Youngblood-Stephens**, meets twice monthly from 8:15-9 a.m. in Room 7.122.

The 4-H program is conducted through the University of Georgia and is supported in cooperation with the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners, the Gwinnett County School Board, and the United States Department of Agriculture. For more information about the Gwinnett County 4-H club, visit www.gwinnett4h.org.

The DM\$ Drama Ensemble presents:

Craig Sodaro's

"Jolly Roger and the Pirate Queen"



November 13 and 14, 2006

7 p.m.

DM\$ Cafeteria

Performance Tickets:

\$5 purchased at the door

Walk-A-Thon Returns to Dacula Park November 3

Dacula Middle School's Annual Walk-A-Thon will be held Friday, November 3 during each grade level's Connections period. The Walk-a-Thon is the Dacula Middle School Care Team's primary source of donations to those in need. The Walk-A-Thon is a great way to teach students about the importance of helping others and giving back to their community. More than 60 students and their families are helped each year with Walk-A-Thon funds. Each student who collects at least \$5 is eligible to walk. In the event a student is not able to, or chooses not to walk, an alternative activity will be provided.



Dacula Middle School Presents...



Clip and Post



Three important seminars for the Dacula Middle family will be held during the next three months. Clip and post this reminder of these community sessions, to be held in the DMS Media Center (unless otherwise noted). If you have questions or comments, please call **Elethia Rhoden**, school counselor, at 678-985-0735.

Internet Security

November 9, 2006
6-8 p.m.

Funnel out the negative on the Internet!

Are you worried about your child on the Internet? Then join us to discuss content blockers, cyber bullying, e-mail responsibility, instant messaging, MySpace.com, parental supervision, passwords, phishing, scams, spam, and much more!



Presenter: **Michael Vickers**, Technical Support Technician,
Dacula Middle School

Study Skills

December 12, 2006
6-7 p.m.

Do you want less stress to do what you want?

We all want our children to do well and be successful. How can we help them help themselves? Topics for the entire family include controlling yourself, getting organized, managing your time, mind processing, prioritizing, retaining more of what you study, and studying correctly.



Presenter: **Stevee Ashlock**, Life Coach and Motivational Speaker

Increase Communication with your Child

January 8, 2007
6-7 p.m.

Are you ever at a loss when it comes to your child?

How often does your family eat a meal together? How well do you deal with mistakes and accomplishments in your family? Do you know what your child really did in school today? How do you express emotion within your family? If you need help answering these questions, this session is for you!



Presenter: **Devin Vicknair**, Outpatient Therapist, Summit Ridge

New Career Center Open for Students

Resource open weekdays from 8:30-9 a.m.

The DMS Career Center, which opens this week in **Elethia Rhoden's** counseling room on the Green Hall, allows students to view books, articles, and websites regarding careers, professional interests, and post secondary opportunities. Parent volunteers are needed to expand operation hours. For more information, contact **Ms. Rhoden**, school counselor, at 678-985-0735.

Wiley: Young People Today Are In Great Need of Positive Role Models

Terri Wiley...Continued from Page 1

“Young people today are in such great need of positive role models and I hope that I am a role model my students can look up to and respect for all of my hard work and efforts in the classroom.

When I stop to think about all of the students I have had the pleasure of teaching and the impact I've have had on their lives, it is mind-boggling. One of my former students had to give a speech recently about a person who had influenced him the most growing up as a child and he chose to write about me. I had no idea he had selected me until he sent me the email with his speech. I thought to myself, “This is really what teaching is all about.”

The joy of teaching for me is about making a difference in my students' lives. I strive to motivate them to be the best they can be, to care about their classmates, and to make a difference. I teach them not only about being musicians but also about being good people. The lessons they learn in my classroom hopefully will help them be successful in and outside of my classroom. I always challenge my eighth grade students to leave the band program better than when they arrived. It is my hope that they take this challenge and turn ordinary feats into extraordinary successes that I can share and use to inspire the rising seventh and sixth grade students. It is my goal for our band program here at Dacula Middle School to be one of the best in Gwinnett County.”

Dacula Middle Bands Present...

Seventh Grade Concert Band
December 5, 2006 — 6:30 p.m.

Eighth Grade Symphonic Band
December 5, 2006 — 7:30 p.m.



Performances: DMS Cafeteria

DMS Business Partners Support Our Children's Education

Dacula Middle School sets a standard for excellence within Gwinnett County. We take the motto, "A community focused on learning and personal achievement" and work each day for that goal. To help us continue our vision to be an excellent school for the community, we are working hard to establish business partnerships that will be assets for both Dacula Middle School and our business community.

If you own a business, join us in our mission to help all our students reach their greatest potential. If you know business leaders in our community, invite them to team with Dacula Middle School. Businesses that participate in our Partnership Program benefit in many ways:

- ◆ Advertising for their company in our school newsletter. The *Falcon Flash* is distributed four times a year to more than 1,900 families.
- ◆ Listing on our school website (www.daculamiddleschool.org). We'll gladly include a hyperlink to their business, too.
- ◆ Recognizing the business at PTA and school events. We will include their business name on our basketball programs.
- ◆ Display their business name on our school marquis at the front entrance for one week.

If you are interested or have any questions about this program you may contact **Lori Youngblood-Stephens** at 770-963-1110.

Dairy Queen

2674 Winder Hwy.
Dacula, GA 30019

Kwick Check Amoco

352 Harbins Rd.
Dacula, GA 30019
770-963-3010

Sports Advantage

465 Dacula Rd., Suite G
Dacula, GA 30019
Jim Terette, Vice President

Stevi B's Pizza

1950 Buford Mill Drive
Wal-Mart Shopping Center
Buford, GA

Big Apple Bagels

3685 Braselton Hwy, Suite 108
Dacula, GA 30019
770-904-6101

Jararam Sales, Inc.

352 Harbins Road
Dacula, GA 30019

Kwick Check Amoco

352 Harbins Road
Dacula, GA 30019
770-963-3010

Snellville Bowling Center

2350 Ronald Reagan Parkway
Snellville, GA 30078

Ippolitos

2133 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Rd.
Suwanee, GA 30024
678-985-4377
Richard Cunningham

Chick-fil-A

Pike Street
680 Duluth Hwy.
Lawrenceville GA 30045

Quick Shop Exxon

475B Dacula Road
Dacula, GA 30019
Phone: 678-407-9575

Vines and Roses

2529 Second Ave.
Dacula, GA 30019

White Swan Valet Dry Cleaners

Dacula Road
Dacula, Ga. 30019
Sheldon Greene

Southern Vending

4227 Steve Reynolds Blvd.
Suite 140
Norcross, GA 30093

Kroger—Hog Mountain

2700 Braselton Hwy.
Dacula, GA 30019
770-614-1020
Valerie Farnsworth, Manager

Coca Cola

250 Industrial Park Circle
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Zaxby's

P.O. Box 178
Winder, GA 30680
Todd Faulkner

Chateau Elan

100 Tour de France
Braselton, GA 30517
800-233-9463

Barnes & Noble

At Mall of Georgia
Mill Creek Village
Buford, GA

Beef O'Brady's

P.O. Box 1271
Dacula, GA 30019
Amy and Rick Griffiths

The Harvest Table Restaurant

2491 2nd Avenue
Dacula, GA 30019
770-339-1925

The Fieldhouse

3519 Braselton Hwy, NE
Dacula, GA 30019
770-271-9292

Publix

Dacula Village
Dacula, GA 30019
770-822-5959

Partner Spotlight

Peter and Hetal Thakkar, owners of the *EXXON* and *BP* stations in Dacula, have been great business supporters of DMS for several years. They always give generously whenever the school needs something. If the need is beverages for perfect attendance parties, money for classroom items, or even gas coupons for the annual Teacher of the Year recognitions, the Thakkars always have said, "Yes!" "They told me that it is their responsibility to give whenever possible, because they belong to the Dacula community," said Health and PE teacher **Kelley Coty**.

Al and Faye Busenlehner, owners of *The Sports Advantage*, have been DMS business partners since they opened their store four years ago. They have partnered with the PE department, helped raise money for needed equipment, annually donated shirts for the Teacher of the Year, and supplied coupons for Employee of the Month. "As a business partner, DMS knows that we can count on them," **Coty** said.

Todd Faulkner, owner of *Zaxby's* in Dacula, is starting his second year as a business partner. Todd had not worked with a middle school before DMS and was unsure how to help. So, he came to DMS, visited with each grade level, and inquired about DMS's needs. Todd is very happy with how Dacula has accepted his Dacula store, his 5th location. *Zaxby's* has donated food coupons for perfect attendance, money to purchase prizes for student activities, and is helping with the Walk-A-Thon. Stop by *Zaxby's* and tell the manager, "Thanks for your support!"

Sheldon Greene, owner of *White Swan Valet Dry Cleaners*, has been a business partner with DMS for two years. He began our partnership by providing drinks and snacks for each grade level during teacher appreciation celebrations. All DMS employees are given a 10 percent discount on dry cleaning services. Sheldon and his *White Swan* team also annually provide free dry cleaning coupons for our three Teacher of the Year finalists.

Look for our business partner listings
at www.daculamiddleschool.org

DMS Fall School Calendar



October

- 15-21 National School Bus Safety Week
- 18-20 ITBS (8th Grade)
- 20 Report Cards
- 23 ITBS (8th Grade)
- Georgia School Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- 24 ITBS (8th grade)
- 30 Email Progress Reports
- Academic Assistance Program Registration, Media Center, 5-7 p.m.

November

- 2 8th Grade Social, 4-6 p.m.
- 3 Care Team Walk-A-Thon
- 6 Reptile World Cultural Arts Program
- 7 Election Day (School Holiday)
- 9 "Internet Security" Parent Seminar, Media Center, 6-8 p.m.
- 12-17 American Education Week
- 13 8th Grade Drama, Cafeteria, 7 p.m.
- 14 8th Grade Drama, Cafeteria, 7 p.m.
- 15 Early Release
- Midterms
- 16 Early Release
- 21 Hat Day
- 22-24 Thanksgiving Holidays

December

- 1 DMS Spelling Bee, Media Center, 9:30 a.m.
- 5 7th Grade Band Concert, Cafeteria, 6:30 p.m.
- 8th Grade Band Concert, Cafeteria, 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Email Progress Reports
- 11 Chorus Concert, Hebron, 7 p.m.
- 12 "Study Skills" Seminar, Media Center, 6-7 p.m.
- 14 7th Grade Orchestra Concert, Cafeteria, 6:30 p.m.
- 8th Grade Orchestra Concert, Cafeteria, 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Nine-Week Exams
- 19 Nine-Week Exams
- 21 Winter Break begins

Ten At-Home Reading Reinforcers

Studies show that the average U.S. student spends hours each day with electronic media (TV, computer, game systems) but only minutes reading. And that's just not enough, literacy experts say. Strong readers make successful learners. The more your child reads, the better the reader (and student) he will be. *Below are tips for encouraging reading.*

Daily Reading Time at Home... Help your child set aside daily reading time at home – 15 or 30 minutes after dinner or before bedtime – to read books at a comfortable, just-right reading level in different genres (realistic and historical fiction, fantasy, fables, fairy tales, myths, non-fiction, and biographies). Try new books, but keep those old favorites, too.

Be a good (reading) example... when it's reading time for your child, pick up a book or magazine yourself.

No holiday for reading... Your child's daily reading habit should be just that, daily, even during vacations. Take along books – or books on tape that the whole family will enjoy – for your next car trip.

Family read-aloud... Turn off the TV and start a family tradition with a childhood favorite, reading a chapter or two together each night. Even older children (yes, teens) may like read-aloud time when it means a few extra minutes with Mom or Dad.

Reader's Choice... Ask your reluctant reader to select his own reading material – whether that's a how-to book, a song or joke book, a special-interest magazine, the sports page, or a graphic anime novel. Reading is reading, no matter the content or type of reading material. Books on tape can enhance traditional reading.

Card-carrying member... Help your child apply for her own library card. Regular trips to the school or public library give your child a wider variety of reading materials. Assist your child in selecting books appropriate to her reading level. Books for younger readers should have pictures to support the story.

Build a library... Help your child build his personal library. Visit the used book store, garage sales, and book swaps, library sales, and school book sales.

Join a book club/group... Your older child may enjoy reading and discussing a book with friends. Check your school and public library for opportunities or help your child start her own club.

Reading is everywhere... Don't stop with books. Point out and read store marquees, cereal boxes, road signs, menus, weather reports, recipes, game directions, movie listings, and more, as you move through the day.

Watch for reading problems... Know what's expected and ask your child's teacher about his progress at school. If your older student has trouble with routine reading (signs or instructions), reads at a very slow pace on assigned reading, or avoids pleasure reading, he may benefit from extra reading support at school.

Mission Statement

The Mission of Dacula Middle School is to be a supportive community of lifelong learners, respecting each individual, and inspiring all to reach their maximum potential.

