

MOUNT VERNON NEWSLETTER

*Motivating,
Valuing, and
Empowering
Students for success*



October/November 2009

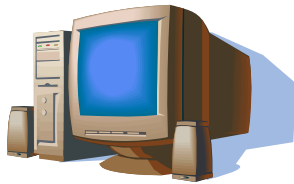
Principal *Connie C. Daniels* Assistant Principal *Kim Pinson*

October Dates to Remember:

Friday, Oct. 2 -1st grade field trip
Monday, Oct. 5 - Blood Drive (7:00-3:30)
Wednesday, Oct. 7 - 2nd/3rd SEARCH Field Trip
Thursday, Oct. 8 -2nd grade Field Trip
Oct. 9-13 -Fall Break
Monday, Oct. 19 -Jr. Master Gardeners (2:30-4:00)
Tuesday, Oct. 20 -K-5 Dental Screening
Saturday, Oct. 24 -Fall Festival
Oct. 26-30 -Red Ribbon Week

November Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, Nov. 4 -picture retakes
Monday, Nov. 9 -JMG (2:30-4:00)
Nov. 9-13 -ITBS
Friday, Nov. 13 -Report Cards
Monday, Nov. 16 -ITBS make-ups
Thursday, Nov. 19 -PTO -4th Grade program
Monday, Nov. 24 -Early Dismissal/Club Day



MOUNT VERNON WEBSITE INFORMATION

Please check our website often for updates, announcements, and calendar of events. We have new information posted from our PTO, our mission, vision, and belief statements, and a connections calendar (so you can see which day your child has P.E., music, art, and computers).

<http://www.hallco.org/mves/site>

STUDENT COUNCIL 2009-2010

3rd grade		
Mattel	Justin Edge	Kendyl Chase
Ray	Chesley Kinney	Emma Durkin
Stephens	Harrison Brown	Alex Shows
Thompson	Drew Faulknor	Morgan Mize
Twiggs	Noah Dunwoodie	Lauren Davis
4th grade		
Durden	Nathan Harwood	Lauren Tymchuk
Frobos	Jack Saxton	Kesley Little
Lathem	Trey Pardue	Emma Grimsley
Peterson	Cutter Sanford	Christen Barnes
Wagner	Nathan Greene	Grace Brown
5th grade		
Crocker	Caleb Shoemaker	Mattie Bohanan
Head	Mac Bennett	Olivia Bradley
Hunt	Maddox Turner	Camdyn Arey
Oke	Joshua Parrish	Abby Berry
Rizk	Christopher Lewis	Emily Satterfield
Stephens	Gunnar Tolson	Amelia Erwin

The **character word** for
October is:

Individuality

The **character word** for
November is:

Cooperation

RELAY FOR LIFE FUNDRAISER

This year we are holding fundraising activities throughout the year. We want the students to feel very much a part of this important cause. In September, we had a successful "Hat Day". The students helped us raise \$ 392.00.

Stay tuned for exciting monthly mini-fundraisers!

SPOTLIGHT ON NEW STAFF MEMBERS

In each newsletter, we will spotlight one of our new staff members for 2009-2010. For the October/November edition, we are pleased to introduce:

**Mrs. Kristi Crumpton
Media Specialist
Mount Vernon Elementary**



I am originally from Monroeville, AL, home of Harper Lee and the setting of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. I attended the University of Alabama. After graduating, I stayed in Tuscaloosa for seven years where I taught kindergarten and second grade. During the summers before I got married, I was a lifeguard and swim coach at North River Yacht Club in Tuscaloosa. During the summer of 1996 I worked at Nantahala Outdoor Center as a daycare worker and part-time river guide. While working at NOC, I met my wonderful husband Matthew and we have been happily married for thirteen years. I am the proud mother of two sons; Weston, 12 and Garrison, 11. We moved to Gainesville this summer from Dalton, GA where we have been living for the past ten years. I taught third grade there and was the media specialist at two elementary schools. I love books, technology, and working with all students and teachers, so there is no better place for me than the media center!



Mount Vernon Media News

The new books have arrived in the media center! We have 200 great new picture books, chapter books, and nonfiction titles. There will be new paint going up soon and new computers will be arriving any day. Classes are enjoying stories and activities using the ACTIVBoard. Please come in a visit us to see what's going on. I would love to meet you.

**Kristi Crumpton
Mount Vernon Media Specialist**



Rebecca Fisher 2009 Teacher of the Year



I am so honored to be Mt. Vernon Elementary's 2009 - 2010 Teacher of the Year! I am so thankful to be working with such a great group of staff, students, and families. Mt. Vernon is truly a special place.

I graduated from North Georgia College and State University with a dual degree in Early Childhood Education and Interrelated Special Education. I also have a Reading Endorsement. I am currently pursuing my Master's Degree in curriculum improvement through Georgia Southern University. This is my sixth year as a classroom teacher. I began my teaching career with Gainesville City Schools and transferred to Mt. Vernon in 2006. I currently teach second grade. Prior to teaching, I spent ten years in the technology field doing network support and software training.

I love teaching! Every day in the classroom is an adventure. I am always amazed at what I learn from my students. Kids have an amazing way of looking at things from a different perspective. My favorite part of teaching is watching my students work cooperatively and learn from one another. Sometimes a child is the best teacher!

I grew up in Arcadia, Florida and moved to Gainesville eight years ago. My favorite thing about North Georgia is the change of seasons! In Florida, it seemed as if it was always summer. In my spare time I love to go hiking with my family, read, and play with my cats.

**Rebecca Fisher
Second Grade Teacher**

From the School Nurse...



Is Your Child Too Sick for School?

Early in the morning, it is often difficult to make a decision about whether or not your child is sick enough to stay home from school. With minor symptoms, you often cannot tell whether he is going to get better or worse during the course of the day.

The main reasons for keeping your child home are:

- He's too sick to be comfortable at school.
- He might spread a contagious disease to other children.

As a rule of thumb, a child should stay home if he has:

- A fever higher than 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Vomited
- Diarrhea
- A very frequent cough
- Persistent pain (ear, stomach, etc.)
- A widespread rash

Most of these problems need to be discussed with your child's pediatrician to determine if an office visit is needed. Coughing, especially if it is persistent during the day, can indicate a worsening of cold or allergy symptoms. It may be a sign of a secondary infection which may require medical treatment. It may also indicate mild asthma. If your child's cough is worse than you might expect with a common cold, you need to consult your child's doctor. You should do so immediately if the child is not acting normal, has a fever or has any difficulty breathing. Diarrhea and vomiting make children very uncomfortable. A single episode of watery diarrhea probably warrants not going to school. It could be very embarrassing and uncomfortable for your child to have another episode while in school. If diarrhea or vomiting are frequent or are accompanied by fever, rash or general weakness, consult your child's doctor and keep the child out of school until the illness passes. Fever (generally considered to be higher than 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit) is an important symptom—especially when it occurs along with a sore throat, nausea or a rash. Your child could have a contagious illness, which could be passed to classmates and teachers. While you can treat the fever, and usually make the child feel better temporarily, the cause of the fever (and the risk of passing it to others) is still there. Children with fever should stay home until there is no fever for 24 hours. Strep throat and scarlet fever are two highly contagious conditions caused by the same bacterial infection. They usually arrive with a sudden complaint of sore throat and fever and often stomach ache and headache. With scarlet fever, a rash usually appears within 12 to 48 hours. A child with these symptoms should see his doctor for diagnosis and treatment and should remain out of school until he is without fever and has been on antibiotics for 24 hours. Flu is a contagious virus that usually occurs in the winter months. Symptoms include body aches, high fever, chills, congestion, sore throat and, in some children, vomiting/diarrhea. Your child should stay home until these symptoms improve and has been fever free without fever reducing medicines for 24 hours. Consult your child's doctor for treatment suggestions to make your child more comfortable.

All of these illnesses can be spread easily, both in school and in the family. Keep in mind that hand washing along with coughing/sneezing into a sleeve are very important things you can do and teach your child to do to help prevent the spread of infections. Whenever there is a doubt in your mind about sending your child to school, consult your child's doctor before doing so. Make sure that your child's school nurse knows how to reach you during the day, and that there is a back-up plan and phone numbers on file.

Amanda Gowder, LPN
School Nurse

From The Counselor's Corner:

If your family needs assistance during the Christmas season this year, please be aware of the application deadlines for our community agencies that provide this type of support. There are two agencies in town available to help families: Salvation Army Angel Tree program and Chattahoochee Baptist Association's Secret Santa program. **The first application deadline is coming soon!**

- 1) Salvation Army Christmas Assistance Program applications:
681 Dorsey Street, Gainesville, GA 30501
770-534-7589

Applications accepted Monday, October 5th – Thursday, October 8th
9:00 am – 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Families must bring the following:

- 1) Valid GA picture ID
- 2) Social Security Cards for all in household
- 3) Proof of income
- 4) Recent bill statements
- 5) Children's clothing sizes
- 6) Children's birthdates

Please do not bring children

- 2) Chattahoochee Baptist Association's Secret Santa Program (Serving children 2 years-13 years old)
1220 McEver Road Extension, Gainesville, GA
770-532-3371

Applications accepted: Monday, October 26th – Friday, October 30th
9:00 am--12:00 pm & 1:00 pm--4:00 pm

Families must bring the following items (no exceptions):

- 1) Birth certificate for each child
- 2) Social Security card for each child
- 3) Social Security card for parents/grandparents/guardians (with proof of custody for guardians)
- 4) Picture I.D. for adult making application



This year Justin Rabb, a fifth grader at our school, is the American Heart Association's Hall County Heart Hero. The association is holding a fundraising walk on Sept 19 at 9 am at Riverside Military Academy. Justin's story and photo are featured on the group's website. His mom asked that we share this link with all teachers and invite everyone to participate in the walk, get a T-shirt, or make a donation to the American Heart Association.

www.hallcountyheartwalk.kintera.org

Box Tops for Education

Box Tops For Education has a sweepstakes going on right now that we ALL can enter DAILY and have a chance of winning 3 prizes....1- 250,000 Box Tops 2- 250,000 box tops or the Grand prize of 500,000 box tops. All the money from Box Tops goes back into our school. So please take a minute to visit www.thebigclip.com. Register and then you can enter DAILY for a chance to win one of the three prizes.

*Remember to also clip those box tops off products that you use in your home and send them to school.

Tiffany Wilson

TYSON PROGRAM

Certain Tyson products have labels that we can redeem for \$.24 each. We do have to have the entire label, not just a UPC. We tried to get this going towards the end of last school year, but did not get any response.

Here is a sample label:



The website is www.tyson.com/projectaplus. There is a complete list of the included products and some sample letters on the website that might help.

Lunchroom News !!!

During the month of September, Mt. Vernon started a new REWARD system for good behavior in the Cafeteria. Classes who receive 5 tokens get to have lunch outside in the pavilion, 10 tokens - extra recess time, 20 tokens - an ice cream party. We are having a very positive showing of good behavior and good manners. Please encourage everyone to continue to be on their best behavior. We want everyone to have a POSITIVE lunch experience.

Angela Sosebee, School Nutrition Manager

NEEDED

Hand sanitizer for the Connections classes

Campbell's Soup Labels

The *Labels for Education* program is a great way to get FREE merchandise for our school and it's even better this year. To meet our goals, we need to collect points. Participating in the program is easy — simply save proofs of purchase from participating Campbell products and send them to our school. We have a collection container in our front hallway that you can drop off your proofs of purchases. Help multiply our efforts by asking your friends and family to collect proofs of purchase on behalf of our school. If you have any questions, or would like to help with our *Labels for Education* Collection drive, please contact our program coordinator Tiffany Wilson at 770-983-1759. Together with *Campbell's Labels for Education* — we can build a better school for our children.

Sincerely,
Tiffany Wilson



*Mount Vernon is proud to be
Partners in Education with:*

Bennett Family Dentistry-Richard G. Bennett Jr.
D.M.D.

Chick-fil-a

Dogwood Forrest of Gainesville

Dominos Pizza

Moe's Southwestern Grill

Prudential Georgia Realty- Brent Hoffman

Sosebee and Britt Orthodontics

Texas Road House Restaurant

VisionPoint- Andrew Oxley

SAVE THE DATES
 SATURDAY – OCTOBER 24, 2009
 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

MOUNT VERNON'S FALL FESTIVAL

All your favorites will be back
 Robo Surfer, 197ft. Inflation Slide, **ORBITRON**, Inflatable Obstacle Course,
 Spide Art, **BOB BINGO**, GOLDFISH TOSS, Jacobs Ladder, **CRAZY HAIR**
COKE WALK, Neon Mania, and **BOGE WALL**

NEW THIS YEAR!!
 All students may wear tasteful, family friendly costumes.
 Parents be mindful that this is an elementary school so please use good judgement.

ALSO
 Chili Cook-off Contest
 (more information to come)

WE ARE SO EXCITED ABOUT THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL. AGAIN, WE WILL HAVE
 THE ENTIRE HALLWAY OPEN AND GAMES THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE SCHOOL.
 WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

Personal and Business donations are always appreciated!
 Please contact Mandi Bruce at 770-983-7085 or 678-316-2295

2009 Fall Festival Committee
 Mandi Bruce, Melissa Robison, JoAnn Roush, Claire Shoemaker

Mount Vernon Elementary will be one of ten schools visited during the Hall County Schools District Accreditation through SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools). For more information, check out the ["Do You Know?"](#) section under the Newsletter/Events tab on our menu.

Visit us at
www.hallco.org/mves

You will find both a PowerPoint presentation and a PDF file with information the committee might address during their visit. The committee visit will be on October 20th.

Fall Festival sponsored by:
 Mt. Vernon PTO

Remember to set your clocks back
 October 31st!

