

MOUNT VERNON NEWSLETTER

*Motivating,
Valuing, and
Empowering
Students for success*



August/ September 2009

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

August Dates to Remember:

Monday, Aug. 10 - 1st day of school
Thursday, Aug. 13 - 4th/5th Curriculum Night 6PM
Wednesday, Aug. 19 - Volunteer Training 9AM
Thursday, Aug. 20 - PTO Fall Fundraiser Begins!
Thursday, Aug. 20 - K/1st Curriculum Nights 6PM
Aug. 24-28 (M-F) - Book Fair Week
Tuesday, Aug. 25 - 2nd / 3rd Curriculum Night 6PM
Thursday, Aug. 27 - School Council Mtg. 7:30 AM

September Dates to Remember:

Friday, Sept. 4 - Club Day/ Early Dismissal Day
Monday, Sept. 7 - School Holiday (students & staff)
Thursday, Sept. 17 - PTO / 5th Grade Program 7PM
Wednesday, Sept. 23 - School Picture Day
Thursday, Sept. 24 - Report cards go home
Grandparent's Day Lunch- date TBA

Mount Vernon Chorus

Mount Vernon Chorus will be open to any 4th and 5th grade student who enjoys singing. Parent information will be sent home during the second week in September, and posted on Mrs. Beverly's Mount Vernon teacher webpage. Rehearsals will begin on Monday, September 21. Chorus will rehearse every Monday from 2:20 until 3:00, and will perform several times throughout our school year. Stay tuned for more information!



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).

RELAY FOR LIFE FUNDRAISER

Once again, Tanner Photography of Alpharetta will be here at Mt. Vernon on September 27th taking Family Portraits. For your \$15 donation to the American Cancer Society, you'll receive an 11x14 portrait of your family-a \$65 value! Other pictures will be available for purchase and additional orders may be placed. This is a perfect time to order holiday cards! A display board with sample photos is on located in the school lobby. Please check it out. More information about this fundraiser will be coming home soon.

PTO Fall Fundraiser



QSP/Reader's Digest Gift Program

Our Fall Fundraiser will begin on **August 20**. Please take time to look at the brochure your child brought home. See the brochure attached to packet for more information. This is an important fund raiser for our school because we retain up to 50% of every dollar received through this program. More importantly, the funds we raise will be used for enrichment programs and activities that will benefit your student. *Thank you for your support*

Welcome new staff members to Mount Vernon Elementary!

Mary Beverly- Music teacher
Kristi Crumpton- Media Specialist
Shasta Gundlach- Instructional Coach
Emily Jones- 1st grade teacher

The **character word** for
September is:
Wisdom

Box Tops for Education

You can make a difference for your school every time you shop for groceries! Just clip the Box Tops coupons from hundreds of your favorite products and send them to school. Drop box is located in the entrance hallway close to the office. For a complete list of products visit:

<http://www.boxtops4education.com/AboutBoxTops/>

From the School Nurse...



Protecting your child's health and safety are top concerns, and working as a team is the most effective approach. Everyone has a role in protecting themselves, their families and their community. The symptom of H1N1 (swine flu) are similar to regular seasonal flu. Symptoms are fever/chills, cough, runny nose, sore throat, body aches, headache, fatigue, and sometimes nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Most people who get it recover at home in about a week. H1N1 has an incubation period of 4-7 days. It is spread through respiratory droplets of cough or sneeze, within approximately a 6 foot radius or by indirect contact by touching contaminated surfaces and then touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.

These are some everyday actions you and your children can take to stay healthy:

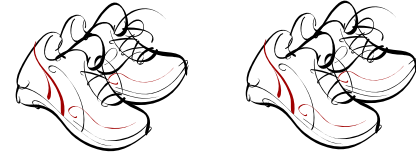
- ✓ WASH YOUR HANDS often with soap and water, especially after you cough/sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective. Be a good role model for your children
- ✓ Do NOT send you child to school with a fever (over 100.0F). Keep children and yourself with flu-like illness at home so you don't infect others.
- ✓ Stay home if you are sick. Sick children may return to school and regular activities after being without a fever for 24 hours WITHOUT the use of fever reducing medications.
- ✓ Avoid giving aspirin to children under the age of 18. Aspirin has been linked to Reyes Syndrome.
- ✓ Cover your nose and mouth when you cough/sneeze. You may cough/sneeze into your sleeve or into a tissue NOT your hands.
- ✓ Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way!
- ✓ Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- ✓ Have your family-including your children-vaccinated against regular seasonal flu.

Amanda Gowder, LPN
School Nurse

Mrs. Whitmire's New Motto

Tennis Shoes

**Don't leave home
Without them!**



Parents, please make sure your child is dressed properly for their physical education classes. I just hate for them to sit out on the Boring Bench.

The 6 day rotation calendar is on our webpage under "news and events".

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



Counselors' Corner

Mt. Vernon students have multiple opportunities to benefit from the elementary counseling program. Mrs. Nix meets with each child's class every three weeks to teach important skills and address a wide range of significant topics. Lunch groups are also conducted for children who need extra support or skill practice. Mrs. Nix is also available to meet with teachers and parents to help students maximize their potential while at Mt. Vernon. If you have a need that you would like to address, please contact the school to make an appointment.

Mt. Vernon also has provided the Debbie Golden Parent Center, which is located across the hall from the office. The center includes books, videos, brochures, and teaching aids which parents can read either in the center, or check out through Mrs. Nix to take home. Please visit the center and take full advantage of the materials found there.

MISSION, VISION, AND BELIEF STATEMENTS

Our faculty and staff revisited our mission, vision, and belief statements in accordance to our Georgia Assessment of Performance on School Standards (GAPSS) review recommendations. Together, we agreed on the following:

Mission Statement:

Motivating,
Valuing, and
Empowering
Students for success

Belief Statements:

We believe:

- 1) Each student has the right to a safe, orderly, and supportive learning environment.
- 2) All students can learn, achieve, and succeed while respecting the uniqueness of others.
- 3) Teachers and staff members will plan curriculum and instruction based on each child's learning needs.
- 4) Technology will support our students in becoming successful, lifelong learners.
- 5) The partnerships among parents, educators, students, and the community are vital to our success.
- 6) We will provide authentic and challenging learning experiences for all students.
- 7) Education is an on-going process that will prepare students for success in a continuously changing society.

Vision Statement:

At Mount Vernon Elementary, the team of students, staff, parents, and community:

Learns together
Enriches lives
Advances knowledge
Develops futures
Strives for success

No Child Left Behind (NCLB), Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

It is important for our community to understand how our school and student achievement are measured and reported in the federal law known as No Child Left Behind. Under NCLB, a measure known as AYP (adequate yearly progress) is used to report student progress on the state's reading and math tests. By the 2013-2014 school year, all students are expected to be successful on these tests according to federal law.

According to the AYP report released by the state of Georgia, we are very pleased to announce that Mount Vernon Elementary made AYP. You can access AYP reports on the Georgia Department of Education's website (www.gadoe.k12.ga.us).

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

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN NOTIFICATION

The Hall County School System AHERA Management Plan is available for public inspection upon request at the Hall County Schools Board of Education office, 711 Green Street NW, Gainesville, GA 30501. This notification is provided to fulfill the requirement of section 763.93(4) of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, 40 CFR Part 763, October 30, 1987. All interested parents, teachers, employees or other persons are invited to review the plan which includes the following items:

1. Location, amounts, and types of asbestos-contained materials in all schools and support buildings.
2. Response actions to the asbestos-contained materials, selected by the Hall County School System.
3. Plans for re-inspection, periodic surveillance and operation and maintenance programs.
4. Public Notification procedures.

Anyone interested in reviewing this plan should contact the Hall County Schools Board of Education office 770-534-1080.

MEAL PAY PLUS PAY FOR MEALS ONLINE

- Create your account via www.MealpayPlus.com
- Contact support at 1-877-237-0946
- Monitor student purchases
- View your student's account balance 24/7
- Receive notifications when your students

BUDGET CUTS AND COPIER COSTS

School systems are discovering more of a financial burden being placed upon the local level due to current economic conditions. Local instructional budgets have been cut as a result. Mount Vernon Elementary entered into a 5-year lease on two copy machines with RISO dated 6-13-07 (which was later bought out by Southeast Office Systems) which has resulted in a financial burden. The costs of these machines will take the majority of our instructional budget this year. After attempting to renegotiate our contract several times last year (with the help of central office and asking for assistance to a non-profit organization), Southeast Office Systems refused to help us. Susan Roberto is the manager/supervisor over Premier Client Services with Southeast Office Systems who refused our request several times. We wanted to make our parents aware of this company that refuses to help a school in current economic times.



Mount Vernon Media News

We have a lot of changes and new additions to the media center – including me! My name is Kristi Crumpton, and I am proud to serve as your new media specialist. My husband, two sons, and I have moved here from Dalton, GA. I have worked as a media specialist for 7 years in two elementary schools. Before I became a media specialist, I taught kindergarten, second, and third grades. I love technology and teaching students and teachers how to integrate it into our everyday lives at school. I am so excited about all of the great things that will be happening in the media center this year! We now have an ACTIVBoard and ACTIVslate in the media center that will allow our lessons to be more engaging and really get our students involved in their learning. We also have a new story time/ lesson area around the board complete with a new rug for the students. There is fresh paint, and new window treatments will be up soon. One of the most important additions will be the new books that will be here in the next couple of weeks. We have new series, additions to existing series, new nonfiction, lower leveled readers, and great new chapter books on the way. We have also purchased AR tests for all of the new books that have AR tests available. Our first book fair will be the week of August 24 – 28. What a great way to kick off a great year of reading. The book fair will be open at night on Tuesday, August 25th during 2nd / 3rd Grade curriculum night. Please make plans to visit us. We have a lot more things to share, so please check our website and school newsletters for more information. If I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Kristi Crumpton
Mount Vernon Media Specialist



SPOTLIGHT ON NEW STAFF MEMBERS

In each newsletter, we will spotlight one of our new staff members for 2009-2010. For the August/ September edition, we will introduce:

Mrs. Mary Beverly
Music Teacher and Choral Director
Mount Vernon Elementary

Mrs. Beverly taught at East Hall Middle School for 10 years and took the past four years off to be with her husband, Keith, and their three year old daughter, Ella. Previous to teaching at EHMS, Mrs. Beverly taught at Norcross Elementary, and always knew that she wanted to return to work with elementary age students again someday. She is a former member of the Capital City Opera Company in Atlanta and has performed a wide variety of vocal styles in various venues.



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

Bennett Family Dentistry-Richard G. Bennett Jr. D.M.D.
Chick-fil-a Gainesville
Dogwood Forrest of Gainesville
Dominos Pizza- Thompson Bridge Rd.
Prudential Georgia Realty- Brent Hoffman
Sosebee and Britt Orthodontics
Texas Road House Restaurant
VisionPoint- Andrew Oxley

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Phone calls to change afternoon departure



Please be aware that we cannot accept changes to a student's afternoon departure **after** 1:50 PM. We must have time to contact the teacher and give time for the student to prepare for the change.



Program for Gifted Students Hall County School District, Gainesville, Georgia

Hall County School System endorses the philosophy that education is a means by which each individual has the opportunity to reach his or her fullest potential. We believe that all students have a right to educational experiences that challenge the level of their individual development, whether it is below, at, or beyond the level of their age peers. Special programs for gifted students are one outgrowth of this commitment.

Students in grades K-12 who demonstrate a high degree of intellectual, academic, and/or creative abilities may be nominated for evaluation to determine eligibility to participate in the SEARCH Program for Gifted Students. Referrals for consideration may be made by teachers, parents or guardians, counselors, administrators, peers, self, and other individuals with knowledge of the student's abilities.

The State Board of Education determines eligibility criteria for placement in this program. For a summary of those criteria or for further information about Hall County's Program for Gifted Students, please contact the SEARCH Program teacher at your child's school or:

Dr. Sally Krisel
Assistant Director of Teaching
and Learning (Academic Rigor)
Phone: (770) 534-1080, ext. 246
E-mail: sally.krisel@hallco.org
Web page: www.hallco.org/rigor

MOUNT VERNON STAFF HIGHLY QUALIFIED

The faculty and staff at Mount Vernon Elementary meet the qualifications and federal guidelines for "Highly Qualified" according to the No Child Left Behind legislation. "Highly Qualified" teachers and paraprofessionals are those who are certified in the area in which they teach or work with students. Any parent or guardian has the right to request information concerning the qualifications of a teacher or paraprofessional who works with their child. Any parent/guardian who has questions, please contact Mrs. Daniels at the school (770-983-1759).