



# WOLFPACK NEWS



Greenbrier Middle School .....April, 2008  
 5120 Riverwood Parkway, Evans, GA 30809 .....706.650.6082  
 Principal Sharon Carson ..... www.gmswolfpack.com

*Greenbrier Middle School Stakeholders are committed to providing a safe and dynamic learning environment, which fosters student success and passion for life-long learning.*

 **Upcoming Events** 

- April 21 Progress reports
- Apr. 21-25 CRCT
- May 1 Orientation-rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- May 5-9 Teacher appreciation week
- May 8 Spring Sports Banquet
- May 15 Spring Band Concert
- May 22 Last day of school

**PTSO** last meeting scheduled for  
 May 1 at 2:30 in the media center

**PTSO Opportunity...** Many board positions will be open for the 2008/2009 school year. If you are interested, please contact a current board member or come to the next meeting

**Newsletter Update:**  
**Watch for our Newsletters now posted on our website**

**Subscribe To The GMS Online Calendar at**  
**www.gmswolfpack.com**

**2007-2008 Dance Dates**  
**6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.**

April 18  
 May 17-8th grade only

**Have students picked up promptly at 9:00**

**The cost is \$5 per person**

**Dances are for GMS students only**

**Dress code will be enforced**

**Procedures for car riders before and after school at GMS:** Parents may access two lots for student drop-off and pick-up: the teacher parking lot and the front-entrance circle. In the interest of student safety, please remain in a single line, and pull up to the orange cone or the closest bumper for expediency. Walkers and car riders should never walk between cars for safety reasons. We greatly appreciate your timeliness in picking up your students prior to 3:00. Thank you for putting our students' safety first.



Donate your used ink cartridges for recycling at the Middle School Office.

## Principally Speaking

It is difficult to believe that this will be the last newsletter of the 2007-2008 school year and there are only five weeks of school left! Many noteworthy accomplishments and academic achievements have been made throughout the year, some of which are mentioned in this editing. Greenbrier Middle School students, faculty, parents and business partners are the best by far and have worked hard to maintain the high standard of excellence that we are known for. With the rezoning for next year, we will be losing nine teachers and approximately 200 students and we will surely miss them and what they have contributed to our school.

Along with the loss of students and teachers, we will also lose some very valuable members of both the PTSO board and the School Council. The parents who have served on these boards have given us much time, talent, and leadership which has helped us reach important educational goals. Now, we need parents to step forward and volunteer to serve on either the PTSO or the School Council so that we can continue to grow and accomplish our mission as a safe and stimulating learning environment. Would you please consider volunteering for these vital school organizations? Please email or call me if you would like more information. [scarson@ccboe.net or 706-650-6080]

I would like to thank the PTSO board for their dedicated service to Greenbrier Middle School; we certainly wouldn't be where we are without them. Thank you to Wendy Withrow-President, Rita Tannehill - Treasurer, Diane Chiera-Spirit Sales, Fran Lemmen-Membership, Becky Pasma-Fundraising, Carolyn Mutimer-Honor Roll Parties, LeighAnn Chambley and Brenda Doolittle – Teacher Appreciation, Kelly Robertson- Newsletter, Melody Edenfield – Directoy, Julie Seabolt and Beth Booth – Dances, and Suzanne Leicht- Volunteer Coordinator. We appreciate all of your hard work!

The School Council has been a viable organization that has provided wonderful support and creative ideas to encourage more business and parental involvement, specifically the new Family Resource Directory. We are very grateful to these School Council members: Bob Barnes – President, Sonia Ivey – Secretary, David Faircloth, Diane Chiera, Karen Reville, Jennifer Crow, Kathy Williams and Stacey Hamrick.

I am pleased to report that the proceeds from the Entertainment Book Sales that you all generously supported have enabled us to purchase some much needed technology and media upgrades. We are in the process of converting one of our classrooms into a second computer lab which will give students many more opportunities to conduct research and create presentations. With the support of contributions from the music department, we have a brand new sound system and screen in the Commons area which has already been utilized for the chorus musicals and slide shows. Thank you for your support which helped us these exciting improvements a reality!

As we approach the end of the year, we are making plans to say good bye to our eighth graders. We are sad to see them go but wish them the very best as they embark on their high school careers. We also say goodbye to three of our esteemed teachers who will be retiring this year: Linda Grooms, Kathy Youngblood, and Sheila Perun. The wonderful teachers who will be leaving us to go to Stallings Island Middle School are Kathy Williams, Eve Motlow, Shaun Owen, Randy Smith, Kelly Frerich, and Laura Austin.

Good luck to all of you! You will be missed!

Finally, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for all of your support and words of encouragement throughout my first year as your principal. I look forward to serving you and your children as we continue to maximize student achievement and offer outstanding learning and growing opportunities for our middle school students.

Go Wolfpack!!

Sincerely,

Sharon Carson  
Principal  
Greenbrier Middle School

## DECORATING ITEMS NEEDED FOR FRONT OFFICE

**Help! Our wolves are looking shabby! We are in need of new pictures, plants and other items that would help us redecorate our front office and make it an even more inviting to welcome students and visitors. Please contact our secretaries in the front office, either Ms. Cindy Pace or Ms. Lacrecha Scott at 706-650-6080, and let them know if you have anything you would like to donate to beautify our entrance and reception area. Thank you very much!**

Thank you and **Welcome**

New Partners in Education

**Augusta Coca-Cola Bottling Company**

**Kohl's Department Store**

---

**Congratulations to Mikey Walton**, the sixth grade winner of the Young Georgia Authors' Writing Competition for Columbia County. Mikey's autobiographical entry has advanced to the state-level competition where it will be judged against winning entries from other Georgia counties. GMS is proud of Mikey's accomplishments, and we wish him the best of luck as his writing is judged by the Georgia Department of Education.

Congratulations, Mrs. Christi Thigpen  
GMS Teacher of the Year

Mrs. Christi Thigpen has been named GMS 07-08 Teacher of the Year! Mrs. Thigpen teaches 6<sup>th</sup> grade math with a specialist degree in Middle Grades Math. She is also a National Board Certified teacher in early adolescent math. She has been GMS Math-a-thon coordinator, homebound teacher, instructional extension teacher, as well as before and after school math lab tutor. Christi serves on the Media Committee and the Leadership Team at GMS. She has worked closely with CCBOE leadership to develop on-line posting sites for unit lesson plans. She was a participant in *Making Math Make Sense* and frequently shares SmartBoard activities that she has designed with her colleagues. Mrs. Thigpen is an all-around great teacher and person. We are thrilled to have her as part of our GMS family.

## Guidance Newsletter

### Summer School, 2008

This year the Columbia County summer School will be held at Evans High School.  
**Middle school summer school is for students who are being retained ONLY.**

**Registration:** May 29<sup>th</sup> at Greenbrier Middle in the Guidance Department From 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

**Dates:** June 2<sup>nd</sup> to July 14th Holiday: July 4th

**Cost:** \$80.00 per class. A student can only take two academic classes

**Dress Code:** The Columbia county dress code will be enforced

**Class Schedules:** Classes are filled on a first-come, first serve basis. Classes are limited to 18 students per class.

**Bell Schedule:**

1 <sup>st</sup> Period	7:30 am – 9:40 am
Break	9:40 am – 9:55 am
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	9:55 am – 12:05 pm

**Bus Transportation:** Bus transportation will only be provided from specified locations in Appling, Evans, Grovetown, and Harlem. A schedule of times and pick-up/drop-off locations will be provided at registration

### End of the Year Report Cards

If you would like your child's last report card to be mailed, please send in to your child's homeroom teacher a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Report cards will be mailed on May 28<sup>th</sup>. If you would rather pick up your child's report card, they will be available on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

### Summer Opportunities

By the first week in May, we hope to have a bulletin board up in the commons area about things for your student to do over the summer. Please come by and check out what is going on this summer.

## **Art News**

The Art Club and various art students did a wonderful job creating scenery for the eighth grade Musical Cinderella. We would like to thank Kaylan's dad, **Mr. Evrard**, for his help with the props. All who attended the musical were appreciative of the set. We will keep the carriage on display in the school.

We have several students that we would like to highlight. First, **Savannah Allen** won third place in the Riverwood Plantation Roundabout Contest. This is an outstanding accomplishment for a middle school student. She competed against adults with art degrees, college students, high school students, and other students at G.M.S. Savannah's idea was to incorporate famous people from Columbia County and to make their image in a relief form around a fountain amongst various plants. We are very proud of her. Her efforts were awarded with a golf membership to Champions Retreat. We are also proud of **Christian Annis**, whose artwork received special recognition for the same contest.

We also have several winners in the Combined Voices Competition at the Morris Museum of Art. These students were honored on April 20 at the Morris Museum of Art for their superior work. Students practiced discussing paintings highlighted by the museum in art class, and then created a poem or short story about their favorite artwork that was featured in this year's contest. Students competed from across the CSRA for this honor. First – Third place winners received cash awards and also a year's membership to the Morris Museum of Art. We are so proud to announce the following winners:

### Poetry

First Place: Jessica Dowell, "Looking Out"

Third Place: Devan Weatheford, "A Deer's Tale"

Honorable Mention: Megan Rogers, "Georgia Landscape"

Honorable Mention: Derrick Bills, "The Painting"

Honorable Mention: Spencer Duffie, "The Abstractor"

### Short Stories

Third Place: Jessica Banasiak, "The Ella Smith Story"

Mrs. Fiebiger enjoys writing herself, and likes to incorporate language within the arts program. We have had second place winners in this contest for two years in a row, but this is the first time that we have won first place. Special thanks to all students who worked hard on both the Roundabout contest as well as the Combined Voices competition.

This year, we will have Artastic on May 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:30-7:30 P.M. Students and parents are invited to drop by for an evening celebrating the Arts at G.M.S. Student artwork will be on display and members from both the band and the chorus will be performing. Please come join us for an evening of talent.

# PTSO NEWS

The school year is coming to a close at Greenbrier Middle School! PTSO sponsored the dance in February and it was a fun night for all of those in attendance. Thanks to Julie Seabolt and Beth Booth, our school dance coordinators, and to all of the chaperones who volunteered that night.

The eighth grade dance committee is finalizing the plans for the eighth grade dance on May 17. Please contact Sonia Ivey (ivey152@comcast.net) or Richelle Wilson (faircloth8@comcast.net) if you would like to be involved in planning this event. There are many things that the committee needs help with to make this dance a successful and fun night for the eighth graders.

PTSO has sponsored several teacher/staff appreciation events this year, the last one being in February. Thanks to Leigh Ann Chambley and Brenda Doolittle for being the chairpersons of this committee. Teacher appreciation week is May 5-9.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers at the school, in particular the members of the Executive Board for 2007-08 and the Committee Chairpersons. These volunteers are Rita Tannehill, Joan Purucker, Fran Lemmen, Melody Edenfield, Becky Pasma, Diane Chiera, Julie Seabolt, Beth Booth, LeighAnn Chambley, Brenda Doolittle, Carolyn Mutimer, Suzanne Leicht, and our Newsletter Coordinator Kelly Robertson.

PTSO was able to purchase 2 Turning Point interactive classroom technology pieces of equipment. Mrs. Carson and her staff are excited to receive those and be able to use them by the end of the school year.

We are in need of many volunteers for next year's PTSO Board. We will be holding our final meeting of the year on May 1 at 2:30 in the Media Center. Please join us and consider volunteering to support GMS. If you cannot make the meeting, email me to let me know which committee or Board position you may be interested in and I will make sure that we find a volunteer spot for you.

Feel free to email me any concerns or questions that you may have about PTSO. There are always opportunities to become involved, so don't hesitate to contact us. Good luck to those of you moving on to the high school or to another middle school. To all of GMS: I have enjoyed my 2 years as PTSO President, but it is now my time to turn over the Presidency to someone else. Please consider taking the opportunity to lead and become involved in your child's school.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer vacation!

Sincerely,

Wendy Withrow  
PTSO President  
[wawithrow@comcast.net](mailto:wawithrow@comcast.net)

## **EARTH CLUB**

Wow, what a year! It has been fun working with the students that have participated in Earth Club. Here are some things we accomplished this year...

- Removed weeds from around the school sign
- Had new dirt placed around the sign
- Built bird houses
- Hung bird houses in trees in a wooded area behind the school
- Studied for the EcoMeet Competition
- Enjoyed spending time with each other
- Carried recyclable papers to the elementary school
- Attended the EcoMeet Competition in Thomson, GA

Thank you to those who provided supplies or treats for our activities. We had an awesome year and look forward to next year. We hope you and your family have a great summer!

*Mrs. Weiksner*

*Ms. Perry*

### ***NEWS FROM MS. PERRY*** ***7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SCIENCE/SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER***

WOW, another school year is almost over! Time sure flies when you are having fun! Although we are almost done, we still have a few weeks to go. Please remind your child/children that they are still expected to study for quizzes and tests and to complete any projects or make-up work. To help me with some end of the year “chores”, please have your child start cleaning out his or her locker and to be on the look out for all of their textbooks. It won't be long before I start collecting them!

Report Card Reminder: If you want the report card sent home, I will need a stamped, self-addressed legal sized envelope. Turn them in by the last day of school.

Thank you for your help, support, and supplies this school year. I hope you and your family have a great summer!

*Ms. Perry*