



PTA News

February 2008

February is a big month for Renfroe! Mark your calendars and plan to come out for these events....

- **February 12:** Renfroe Rally (aka Student/Adult Basketball Game)
- **February 21:** Internet Safety and Cyberbullying in the Digital Age
- **February 22:** Renfroe Annual Auction

It's a new year and a new opportunity to get involved! We want you to attend these events to support your child's school, and we need you to volunteer to help make these events happen!

Renfroe Rally – Student/Adult Basketball Game

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, February 12** at 7 p.m. at the Decatur Recreation Center for this year's exciting challenge by the Renfroe boys and girls basketball teams against the adults of our Renfroe community. We need volunteer adult players and cheerleaders! Come watch the games and enjoy half-time entertainment and snacks. See the Renfroe Rally flyer in this mailing packet for more detail and how to volunteer.

Internet Safety and Cyberbullying in the Digital Age

The City Schools of Decatur, in partnership with the Decatur Recreation Afterschool Program, invite all parents to attend a program entitled Internet Safety and Cyberbullying in the Digital Age at Renfroe Middle School on Thursday, February 21st, at 7:00 pm. Dr. Patricia Agatston, co-author of the book entitled, *Cyber Bullying: Bullying in the Digital Age*, will be our presenter for the evening.

Dr. Agatston is a Licensed Professional Counselor with the Prevention/Intervention Center, a student assistance program in the Cobb County School District. A two-time recipient of the Coalition for Child Abuse Prevention's VIP award, Dr. Agatston has been quoted in articles on cyber-

bullying in *Time Magazine* and *Good Housekeeping*, as well as various local print and television media.

We hope you will join us! Childcare for school-aged children will be provided by the 21st Century Community Learning Grant. To reserve a space for childcare, please RSVP to Heather Borowski, Instructional Technology Coordinator for City Schools of Decatur, at hborowski@csdecatur.org or 404-370-3848 ext. 17.

Plan to Attend Renfroe's Gala Event!

We're less than a month away from Renfroe's biggest fundraiser! We hope you'll join us for a fun-filled evening of food and drink, dancing and a great auction! The event will be held February 22, 2008 at the Solarium in Oakhurst from 7-11 p.m. Tickets are \$35 per person in advance and \$50 at the door. To purchase tickets online and view the items available for auction, please visit <http://www.renfroeauction.com>. Proceeds will benefit the Renfroe PTA.

Want to help? We'd love to have you! Please email Jenny Wynne at jfwynner@aol.com.

Show Me the Money

It seems that PTAs focus a lot of energy on raising money -- with fundraisers big and small. But where does the money go? Money raised at events such as the auction goes to support activities throughout the year that directly benefit your children -- for example, the planners that are distributed to every student, field trips, club events, etc. Money raised through the Friends of Renfroe campaign goes toward the purchase of big ticket items that Mr. Roaden wants to put in place to benefit current and future Renfroe students. He is planning to spend \$10,000 this year on technology, such as wireless smart boards teachers can use to help them do their jobs better and more creatively. Next year, his goal is to buy books, books, and more books -- to absolutely fill the school library up with books! So donate what you can!

Renfroe Hosts 14 Middle Schools in Debate Tournament in December

The hallways of RMS were unusually active for a Saturday as 92 middle school students from around the metro area arrived to participate in an Atlanta Middle School Debate League tournament, organized by the Barkley Forum, an intercollegiate debate and forensics organization at Emory University. The Renfroe novice team of Chantal Wilmore (7th) and Jeanelle Seals (7th) had an undefeated record of 4 wins – 0 losses. A total of 3 teams had undefeated records, and by tiebreaker rules the Wilmore/Seals combined speaker points gave them a 3rd place novice team award; with Jeanelle placing 14th and Chantal placing 17th out of a total of 38 novice speakers. Also in the novice category, Lydia Elmore (7th) and Nia Tippett (7th) took 11th place novice team, with Nia placing 13th and Lydia placing 21st individually for their speaking skills. Renfroe's varsity team of Nathan Moore (7th) and Charice Stroud (8th) placed 7th out of 17 teams, with Charice coming in 10th and Nathan 16th, out of a field of 34, for their individual speaking skills. Normalizing by the number of teams from each school, RMS tied for third in overall number of wins, behind Calhoun and Inman Middle Schools. The proud coach of Renfroe's debate team is Vivian Dawson.

When asked for his assessment, Principal Bruce Roaden declared the event an unmitigated success, "Great turn out, great food..." That great food would not have been possible without the support of our community businesses: Kroger, Publix, Starbucks, Atlanta Bread Co., Papa John's Pizza, Frito-Lay, and Coca Cola. The tournament would also not have been possible without the generous time contributed by our wonderful PTA supporters. Thank You!

The Barkley Forum at Emory University, through the Atlanta Urban Debate League, organizes eight middle school debate tournaments a year. This involves nearly two hundred students from across the Atlanta metro area, Macon, and Calhoun, GA.

Clubs Update

STEMCELL Club will begin meeting after school every other Wednesday starting January 23rd. from 3:30 - 5 p.m. These are the 9 dates on the calendar for regular meetings for the rest of the school year:

1/23
2/06
2/20
3/05
3/19
4/02
4/16
4/30
5/14

For the first couple weeks we'll be continuing with Lego Robotics, and see who might be interested in forming one or more teams.

I am still interested in taking some kids to Georgia Tech on Feb 9th to observe the state FLL (First Lego League) competition.

Lest you think it's all Legos, let me assure we will be doing some other fun stuff, too. There may be some interest in the Math Counts or other math contest. We have some other cool hands-on ideas, too. I am seriously thinking of building a PC and raffling it off as a fundraiser.

There's another cool experiment that is done with old fashioned metronomes (the kind with the weight, not digital). If you have one of those we can borrow (it won't be harmed!) let me know.

Questions? Contact Lew Lefton at llefton@math.gatech.edu.