



PTA News

March 2008

Congratulations!!!

...to Champion Speller **Eron Smith**. Eighth grader Eron represented Renfro at the District 4 Spelling Bee Feb. 23 in Alpharetta and beat thousands of other kids as they spelled their way through difficult words. The winning word: coryvantic. Eron goes on to the state finals March 21. Good luck, Eron!

Academic Bowl

The Academic Bowl team had its first competition on January 12th at Mount Carmel Christian School in Stone Mountain. The team, which is largely composed of Renfro 6th graders, competed against stiff competition from around the metro Atlanta area, including Chamblee Middle School and Kittredge Magnet Schools' 6th grade team. They won several rounds and were thrilled with their success. They look forward to their next competition on March 1st. For further information about the Academic Bowl, contact Cindy Tarrant at ctarrant@csdecaur.net.

Literary Magazine Needs Student Writing, Art and Photography Submissions!

The Renfro Middle School Literary magazine is looking for student submissions. Please encourage your RMS student to take advantage of this opportunity to become a published author or artist. We are looking for a variety of literary and artistic formats including, but not limited to: Poetry, short fiction, personal narrative, photography, comics, prints, essay and more. We are looking to have all entries submitted by March 20th. For more information or to send submissions please contact Mr. Skillman at bskillman@csdecaur.net. Do not forget to include name of author and title of work. Thank you.

The Literary Magazine crew is up and running. Students are presently collecting entries, creating marketing materials, and I have begun teaching the editors how to use Quark Express (layout software) on the Mac. Literary Magazine meets every Thursday after school.

The Culture Club

This month we have been studying Africa and will be attending the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater at the Fabulous Fox Theatre on Friday, February 29, 2008. The students are excited, some have never attended a venue at the Fox.

Last month we reviewed South America and had a speaker from Brazil to talk with us. We culminated the month's South America theme with dinner at Las Brasas, an authentic Peruvian restaurant. It was indeed a great experience. Currently we have 14 active students but we always welcome new members. We meet every Thursday from 3:45-4:45 in room w27. Contact Inez Cox with any questions – icox@csdecaur.net

STEMCELL

(Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics Club to Encourage the Love of Learning)

We are still having a great time with Lego Robotics, but that's not all we've been up to. We've also seen how to detect counterfeit money with a magnet, and discovered how to balance triangles and other shapes on a nail. Earlier in February, we took a field trip to the state First Lego League Robotics championship at Georgia Tech. Having seen a live competition, we are sure that next year, there will definitely be at least one or two Lego Robotics teams forming in the Decatur City Schools! A big thanks to Ms. Brooks for letting STEMCELL use her RCX Lego Robotics kit!

We continue to meet every other Wednesday, and our next meeting is March 5. Possible upcoming projects include making a speaker out of a paper plate, and perhaps even building an ornithopter (a device that flies by flapping its wings). For more information, contact Lew Lefton at Llefton@math.gatech.edu.

Jazz Ensemble

The Renfro jazz ensemble is open to all students in the band program. Sessions begin for the new term on Tuesday afternoon, March 18 at 3:40 - 4:45. Rehearsals are each Tuesday at that time with the concert on May 8 at 7:00 p.m. here at RMS. For more information contact dwilliams@csdecaur.net.

Spanish Club

Spanish Club has been meeting most Mondays 3:30-4:30 after school. We are now selling greeting cards to raise money for our future penpals in Colombia to buy them computers. They are victims of the drug wars who are in a recovery program. For more information contact Rosita Fitch at rfitch@csdecaur.net.

Math Counts

Math Counts had a small group attend the math count competition at Georgia Tech in February. Upcoming meeting TBA. For information contact Karen Flowers at kflowers@csdecaturnet.net.

Service Club

The Service Club, a.k.a. S.O.S. (serving our society) is having a great time. We try to focus on a school, community, and global project throughout the year. We are continuing service to the school community by picking up trash around the building for the first 10 minutes of our meeting each time. Our year-long food drive for the larger community, through the Atlanta Community Food Bank, has had a jump in contributions as we tied donating food to being able to send a valentine. For every 3 cans of food brought in, a valentine was sent to the person of their choice during lunch on Valentines Day. We are also getting a group together to participate in the Food Bank's annual Hunger Walk March 2nd. We will be choosing a new global service project soon. Questions? Contact Haqia Bolling at hbolling@csdecaturnet.net

Geography Bee

Congratulations to 8th grader Owen Hunt who was Renfroe's Geography Bee winner this year. National Geographic presented him with a medal. Way to go Owen!

Drama Club

The Drama Club is busy preparing three one-act plays to be performed before spring break. Drama Club meets every Tuesday afternoon from 3:45-5:00. Meetings begin in Mrs. Cantergiani's room, W16, and continue in the cafeteria on the stage. We appreciate the dedication of the young actors and stage crew. For more information contact Kiernan Cantergiani at kcantergiani@csdecaturnet.net.

5th Annual Spring Sports Fest Celebration Join the Decatur Bulldog Athletic Booster Club for this Fundraiser!

This year the DBABC presents a St. Paddy's Day (and a bit of Mardi Gras, too) SportsFest on Saturday, March 15th, from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Come out to celebrate and support Decatur sports - this event supports ALL sports at Renfroe Middle School and Decatur High School. There will be a great silent auction, wonderful food and drinks, and amazing music featuring the powerful blues of the Non-Essentials! Adults Only. At the Church of the Epiphany, 2089 Ponce de Leon Avenue (intersection of East Lake Drive and Ponce de Leon Avenue). \$20 per person in advance, \$25 at the door. To purchase your tickets in advance, send your check, made payable to DBABC, to 181 Coventry Road, Decatur, GA 30030. Any questions or if you want to volunteer to help or donate, please call or write Marc Wisniewski at 404-377-5864 or marc.wisniewski@us.ibm.com.

Calling all RMS gardeners or just anyone wanting to come outside after this COLD winter!

The PTA will be holding a Grounds Day on Saturday, March 29 from 9 – 12:00. Unfortunately, due to the drought, we can't be planting but we will be weeding and mulching in the front and on the Adams street side of the building. Bring a wheelbarrow, pitchfork or garden fork, rake, weeding tools, gloves and pruners and join us to make the outside of the school look neat and ready for warmer weather! Come for the whole time or just a brief time; and by all means bring your children. It is a great way for them to help!

If you have any questions or need further information, please call Lexie Parker at 404-378-7649 or email: lexieparker@mindspring.com.