



The Lion's Roar

'Recognize the Roar'

Autrey Mill Middle School

October 26, 2009

A Message From the Principal:

Calendar of Events

Oct. 27 7:00 p.m.
Chorus
Concert

Oct. 28-30
8th Grade
Georgia
Studies
Trip

Nov. 4 5:00 p.m.
Volleyball vs.
RTMS
(HOME)

Nov. 5 4:00-5:30 p.m.
7th Grade
Party

Nov. 6 5:00 p.m.
Volleyball vs.
Haynes Br.
(AWAY)

Nov. 13 5:00 p.m.
Volleyball vs.
WBMS
(HOME)

Nov. 18 **Early Release
Day**
Students
Dismissed at
12:55 p.m.

Career Day

Greetings from Autrey Mill!

Our eighth graders will leave on their long awaited trip to the Savannah area on Wednesday. They are looking forward to being away from home with their friends, and we are excited that they have this opportunity! This annual trip is tied to the eighth grade Georgia Studies class.

Please note the following items of interest:

- In order to make sure that students are retaining all that they are learning, they will see test items from previous units on most of their assessments. They don't need to worry about trying to study previous assessments; if they've really learned the material, they will have no trouble with the items. If they have forgotten material from previous units, we need to know it, so that we can help them re-learn it before they take the state test in the spring. We don't want to give them permission to forget!
- Speaking of testing...Each year, our eighth graders take the Georgia Writing Test in January. We work with all of our students - sixth, seventh, and eighth graders - throughout their middle school career, to make sure they are good writers and are ready for the test. This year, I plan to share some ideas for parents to use at home to help their kids become more sophisticated writers. Please look for these **Writing Tips For Parents** in the Lion's Roar. My first tips can be found on Page 2 in this edition.
- While we DO NOT have a big problem with stealing at Autrey Mill, it is something that happens occasionally. I want to remind you that students should not bring valuable items to school. There is no reason for them to have their iPods, cameras, large amounts of cash, etc., here at school. When items such as these go missing, the students are, understandably, heartbroken. Should your child lose an item that he or she brings to school, please have him or her report the loss as soon as possible. When Officer Quinn has the information early enough, we often recover the item. If we don't know about it until the next day, it is harder to find missing items. Students' best bet is not to bring treasures to school at all. Thanks for your help with this.

Thanks for your continued support of Autrey Mill.

Ann Ferrell

Writing Tips for Parents

As our students work to become more sophisticated writers, we try to help them improve in the six traits of writing:

Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency and Conventions

Today, we will focus on IDEAS - The ideas are the heart of the message, the content of the piece, the main theme, as well as the details that enrich and develop that theme.

A paper with good ideas is clear, focused, and holds the reader's attention. Ideas are the reason we are writing. When your child writes a paper or a paragraph for school, you can suggest that they ask the following:

Is my message clear?
Do I know enough about my topic?
Is it interesting?
Is my topic "small" and focused?
Did I show what was happening?

If your child focuses on making sure that his or her ideas are clearly expressed and interesting, the paper is more than likely headed in the right direction. In future weeks, we will focus on each of the other writing traits.

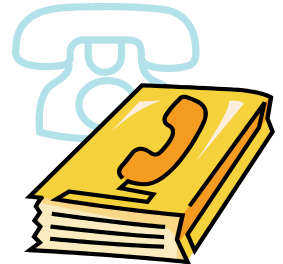


Directories Have Arrived!

If you have any directory-related issues, please contact:

Michelle Gaddis—michellecgaddis@gmail.com.

Please **DO NOT** call the front office or teachers.



From the Counselors' Corner

Happy Fall from the AMMS Counseling Office!

Now that the school year is well under way, AMMS is beginning a school-wide CRCT initiative. Each month, the faculty and staff will work with students on different aspects of the CRCT. Our goal is to help students become more comfortable with the assessment and more confident in their own testing abilities.

Stay tuned to the **Counselors' Corner** where you will find a summary of each month's focus and suggestions for how you can support our initiative at home.

Should you have questions regarding the CRCT, please contact your grade level counselor.

6th grade—Sogol Zebarjadi
 7th grade—Lyn Shiver
 8th grade—Fran Meredith



Students of the Month

October Students of the Month!

Every month a group of Autrey Mill teachers selects students to be honored as Autrey Mill's **Student of the Month**. Students are chosen based on their good citizenship, responsibility, and overall kindness toward others.

Each student is invited by Dr. Ferrell to eat lunch in the media center with a friend of their choosing. With the donation that **Mathnasium** provided, the students of the month were treated to ice cream cakes from Brusters.

6th Grade

Drew F.
Gabrielle B.
Kaleigh E.
Kevin B.
Kevin E.
Maddie D.
Maggie H.
Meral B.
Michael B.
Oriana H.
Peyton B.
Kelley C.
Pearce K.

7th Grade

Ellora L.
Jason L.
Jon S.
Susan Y.
Patrick A.
Hailey L.
Sebastian M.
Courtney P.
Jenet L.
Jayla G.
Danielle M.
Mackenzie D.

8th Grade

Immanuel B.
Jalees N.
Brooke T.
Nalini B.
Lindsey S.
Andrew H.
Chase P.
Megen W.
Jennifer D.
Yuki O.
Khalis K.
Jessica Z.
Austin W.
Madison R.

Reflections

The **Reflections** entries have been collected, and judging will soon be underway.

To celebrate, a breakfast will be held **November 3rd at 8:15 a.m.** for all students who submitted work in the **Reflections Arts** contest. This is not for the Reflections Theme Search. In addition to breakfast, there will be awards and a drawing for a gift card.

Watch for more details in the Lion's Roar.



Halloween Reminder

Although many of you may have special plans for next Saturday evening – Halloween – please remember that Friday is a regular school day. Costumes and masks are not appropriate for school, nor is candy distribution. Please save those activities for your time at home after school.

Student Check Out Policy

Please review our Check Out Policy!

From this point forward, we will not call children out of class for checkout after 3:30 p.m.

Any time that you know in advance that you will be checking your child out of school, please send a note with your child indicating the time that he or she is to be checked out and have them bring it to the front office. Your note will serve as his or her pass out of class, and he or she can be waiting for you when you arrive. That way, we will not have to interrupt class.

If you have to check your child out of school unexpectedly, please come to the front office anytime **before 3:30 p.m.**, and we will call him or her to the office for checkout. **Between 3:30 p.m. and 3:55 p.m. we ask that you wait in the carpool line for your child.** In addition, if you need to make your child aware of a change in their normal transportation home, please call the office before 3:30 p.m. so we have time to get a message to your child.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us to limit interruptions to the school day.



Student Council News

SAVE LIDS TO SAVE LIVES

Now through December 18 Student Council representatives are collecting **pink Yoplait®** yogurt lids. The **Yoplait®** company donates ten cents to **Breast Cancer Research** for every lid. Please send clean, **pink Yoplait®** lids to school with your child – every lid gets us closer to the cure!



PTA News—We Need Your Help!

Each year the staff at AMMS is treated to a big holiday luncheon in early December. We like to show them how much we appreciate them and wish them **"Happy Holidays"** by giving each staff member a gift card. These are donated by our parents. This year, we are asking for gift cards in \$5 or \$10 increments, so each teacher will be able to have one. They can be to any store, restaurant, gas station, grocery...**GET CREATIVE!** Just have your child drop them off at the front office in an envelope to our attention. We hope this will give you plenty of time to get this done before the real holiday rush begins!

Please contact us if you have any questions. Thank you so much!

Julie Abes julieabes@h2sr.com

Lorena Rothfarb lrothfarb@bellsouth.net



Career Day '09—Volunteers Needed

Career Day '09
November 18th 2009
8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

The faculty of Autrey Mill, the PTA, and the Johns Creek Rotary Club co-sponsor this fun event, and we are looking forward to another successful Career Day this year!

We will have speakers for all three grades, so we are looking for 50 people who are willing to speak to groups of 30 students each during four 30 minute periods. IF you can volunteer, please contact the PTA parents below, who are lining up the speakers. Please let us know your contact information (e-mail, mailing address, and phone number) , a description of your career, and if you have a child at Autrey Mill. (If so, please tell us the name and the grade.) Thank you!

Aleece Ackerman aleece4@comcast.net
Kristan Goldfein Kristan.goldfein@gmail.com

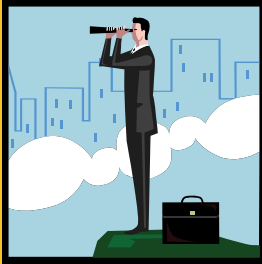


Future Focus Fair—November 14th at Georgia Tech

Fulton County Schools will be holding its first **Future Focus Fair** on **Saturday, November 14th, 2009**. All parents of 7th -12th grade students attending Fulton County schools are invited to come and hear advice on how to best prepare their children for a variety of post secondary options.

This event will take place at the Georgia Tech Student Center between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. The featured speaker will be **Nancy McDuff**, *Associate Vice President for Admissions and Enrollment Management* at The University of Georgia. Ms. McDuff will also be serving as the moderator for a panel of guest speakers representing the following higher education institutions: Georgia Tech, Georgia Perimeter College, Spelman College, SCAD and Argosy University.

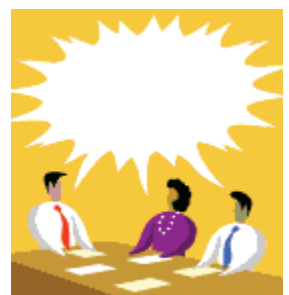
The panel discussion will be followed by break-out sessions featuring confirmed representatives from the following: GA DOE (CTAE), College Board, Georgia College 411, GA Student Financial Commission (HOPE), KAPLAN and the ROTC. There is free parking on Saturdays, and we hope many families will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.



PTSA Special Needs Meeting—November 4th

The next PTSA Special Needs meeting will be on **Wednesday, November 4th** at Centennial High School, hall I – room 12, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. These meetings are open to all parents (no matter where your child goes to school), teachers, and anyone interested in helping special needs students.

Dr. Peter Scire will be speaking about **Brain Balance**. Brain Balance is a unique learning center designed to work with children suffering from autism, ADHD, dyslexia, learning delays, sensory processing, tics, Tourette's and other neurological issues. They typically work with children from pre-K to 9th grade. They have three centers, with one located on Crossville Road in Roswell. Feel free to check out their web site www.brainbalancega.com. Contact Bonnie Petrukovich at tpetrokovich@charter.net or 770 642-6810 for more information.



Community News

Online Education Now Available for Middle Schoolers

The **Georgia Virtual School** (GAVS) division of the Georgia Department of Education has expanded its online course offerings to meet the demands of middle school students as well as those in high school. While most courses are designed to provide opportunities for accelerating the curriculum or retaking a class, other courses are alternatives to the traditional music, art, and business electives.

The classes follow Georgia Performance Standards and are taught by highly-qualified certified teachers. Tuition is \$150 per course. The nine-week courses are preceded by an orientation that familiarizes the student with the online platform. Students can register for classes in math, science, language arts, Spanish, French, and electives in health care science or career management.

Historically, GAVS students have scored higher on End-of-Course tests than their brick-and-mortar counterparts. Since different students log into GAVS courses at different times of the day and work at different paces, GAVS teachers can communicate and work with students one-on-one. There actually IS someone on the other end of the computer. However, students also get to know each other via online discussion boards and weekly live classroom chats.

Every school system in Georgia has a facilitator who acts a liaison between the student and his or her brick-and-mortar school to ensure that a student's final grade in a GAVS course is reported to his/her school.

Registration is now open for spring courses. To register, you will need you're your child's GTID (Georgia Testing Identifier) number. If you do not know it, contact your child's school counselor.

For more information, go to <http://www.gavirtualschool.org/>. If you have additional questions, please contact Julie Floyd at julie.floyd@doe.k12.ga.us.



New Johns Creek High Youth Wrestling Program

Would you like get your child involved in a safe, fun sport with a long and storied tradition, that breeds great discipline and dedication?

The new Johns Creek High School wrestling team is starting their inaugural **youth wrestling** for kids ages 5 to 14. Our youth wrestlers will have access to excellent facilities and instruction, and will experience the excitement of competitive wrestling. There is opportunity for all to compete, and wrestling provides great conditioning, even for younger participants. We will work hard and have fun!

Sign ups are **Tuesday November 10th, 2009** starting at **6:15 p.m.** in the Johns Creek Wrestling Room. On **Sign up Night**, you'll meet Georgia 2001 State Wrestling Champion Josh Sims, Head Coach of Johns Creek High School, and the team will have practice immediately after sign ups. Once you've wrestled, you'll never turn back! Come and be part of a tradition in the making, Johns Creek Youth Gladiators!

Program fee is \$175.00, and the program runs November through February. Practices are Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the wrestling room at Johns Creek High School. For more information please contact **Coach Josh Sims** at SimsJ@fulton.k12.ga.us, or Booster Club Representative **Rob Murphy** at remurph@yahoo.com, or check out the wrestling page at johnscreekglad.com.

