

STRICKLAND

Chester O. Strickland Middle School



Volume 1, Issue 3

NEWSLETTER

February, 2012

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE



Spring 2012 is a time to think about planning for the next school year. Eighth graders have met their principal for next year and have visited their high schools for orientation. They will be figuring out what types of classes they want to include on their four year plans and are hopefully discussing those plans with their parents. Students and parents should ask

questions in order to clarify the process and meet their student's needs. 6th and 7th graders will also be selecting their courses for next year. Parents, please encourage your students to challenge themselves by electing to take enhanced courses in the areas they are most interested or academically strongest! Soon we will be inviting the current 5th grade students and parents to come and check out the middle school transition and experience.

Many of our Strickland students continue to be on the A/B honor roll each grading period! An incentive for good grades is our PTA STAR program and store, which is at the end of the day this year, instead of at lunch. STAR is a great motivator for student success. Students are excited to receive this reward. You can help your student achieve this goal by monitoring their grades in Parent Connection. Instructions for accessing Parent Connection are on our Strickland webpage. Students

grades in Parent Connection. Instructions for accessing Parent Connection are on our Strickland webpage. Students whose parents stay "connected" are more successful throughout the year. Information about attendance is also available in Parent Connection.

Our amazing SMS PTA is so supportive of our students, staff, and programs. It is so vital to have a partnership with parents and the community. Supporting PTA fundraising helps all of our students! Thank you to our PTA volunteers!

As most of you know, we have been under construction this year. Progress on the new orchestra room is evident. Some smaller projects have been completed as well. If you are at SMS for an event you should stop by and check out the new carpet in the auditorium. Our student restrooms have also been updated and are really looking great!

I look forward to seeing you this spring!

Kathleen Carmona

SPECIAL DATES

Feb 3 – Night of Shining Stars
Feb 17 – End of Fourth Six-Weeks
March 8 – Amerithon fund raiser
March 19-23 – Spring Break

The Valentine's Dance is Friday, February 10, from 4-6 P.M. in the Strickland cafeteria. Tickets will be sold at lunches and at the door for \$3, and the price includes cookies and punch. Pizza will be sold for \$1 a slice.



Our campus is once again collecting Box Top For Education. Please help us by sending yours in!

Shop at Kroger and Raise Money for Strickland

Shop at Kroger? You can raise money for Strickland Middle School and PTA by using your Kroger Plus Card. It is easy! Just take this barcode with you on your next visit, scan your plus card, scan the barcode, and you are done. You must re-enroll each school year to be active. Thank you for your participation!



New Student Breakfasts

The SMS counselors will welcome new students with a monthly breakfast. This time will allow students new to SMS an opportunity to ask questions, meet other new students, and mingle with veteran Vikings and teachers. Welcome!

Parent Connection and GradeSpeed

Gradespeed, an online gradebook application used by DISD, gives parents access to their child's assignments, attendance and grades via the internet.

You may register for this valuable service from the DISD website.

STRICKLAND PTA



Can you believe that the second semester of the school year is here?! It seems like only yesterday that the calendar page read "August." The time has flown by, and this semester will be over before we know it.

I am pleased to let you know that I received letter of congratulations from Texas PTA. Included was a certificate recognizing SMS PTA for a **10 percent increase in PTA membership**. Congratulations! We appreciate everyone who has joined PTA this year. But, if our PTA membership roster still does not include YOU, please consider joining us.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find information on the 4th annual BookCents Used Book Sale to be held at the Golden Triangle Mall in March.

If you read that novel a couple of years ago, chances are you won't read it again. The sale is a great way to clean out your book shelves and make money for Strickland Middle School. What a deal!

I have seen quite a number of the new SMS hoodies around school. It is certainly not too late to purchase one. We still have most sizes available for sale. Check them out at the concessions at the basketball games!

The *Night of Shining Stars* is scheduled for February 3rd. Join us as we celebrate the Fine Arts program and our talented SMS students.

When you see SMS administrators, faculty, and staff at school, in the grocery store, at events in the community....anywhere...take time to thank them for all they do to make SMS a better place for our students!

Patrice Frisby

President, Strickland Middle School PTA
musical79@hotmail.com

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Four Tips for Soothing Sibling Rivalry

Weekly Tip from the Love and Logic® Experts

Dear Dianne,

Why is sibling rivalry such a perplexing issue for so many parents?

Simply because we can't make our kids love each other. That's completely out of our control.

Listed below are just a few of the many things we can control:

- **Whether we do extra things for kids who are battling with each other.**

It's perfectly reasonable for a parent to say, "This is such a bummer. I'm tired-out from listening to you arguing with each other. I don't have the energy to drive you to your friends' houses."

- **Whether we allow certain items to remain in our homes.**

A friend of ours said to her kids, "This is so sad. Every time you guys play with that game you get in a fight. I gave it away so it wouldn't be a problem anymore."

- **Whether we allow their fighting to interrupt our responsibilities and time.**

Have you ever noticed how kids tend to argue and bicker with each other when you are trying to do something that requires your complete attention such as trying to talk on the phone? If you feel secure that your kids won't harm each other, it's probably best to say, "This is really draining my energy. You guys need to work this out or go your separate ways."

- **Whether we give them "bonding opportunities."**

"When your kids start to battle with each other, experiment with saying, "Sounds like you guys need some bonding time." Then assign them some chores to give them an opportunity to feel the love. In my DVD, How To Make the Best of Sibling Rivalry, I give a variety of additional tips for upping the odds that your home will remain a peaceful place. Thanks for reading! Our goal is to help as many families as possible. If this is a benefit, forward it to a friend.

Dr. Charles Fay

YOUR STUDENT CAN BE A STAR!

Attention All Strickland Vikings: This year, YOU can be a STAR!

So, just what is a STAR?

STAR is a recognition program sponsored by the SMS PTA.

STAR stands for "Students Toward Academic Recognition."

By earning A's and B's and no behavior detentions, students will receive a STAR card shortly after the end of each six-weeks. With this card, students can visit the STAR Store at the end of each six-weeks, where they can spend their "money" on snacks and seasonal items! Be watching for the spring dates and times to be posted for the The STAR Store.

In addition to visiting the STAR Store, students earn a free homework pass, free admission to a SMS athletics event, and a chance to enter into a drawing for a free movie ticket at the end of the semester! Also, students earning a STAR card every six-weeks during the upcoming school year will be honored at the end of the year with a free picnic lunch. So start planning today to qualify for the STAR program-you too can be a STAR!

CHOIR NEWS

We have a lot of upcoming events for our choir program this spring. Please make sure to watch out for any handouts sent home and see below for a list of events.

PARENTS – we would love to have you join us on our San Antonio Trip! If you are a parent or a 7th or 8th grade choir student, we are now taking payments for San Antonio. Please send yours in marked with San Antonio Chaperone. We can only take the first 25 that sign up – so don't miss out on joining us on tis excitix`ng trip!

February

3rd – A night of shining Stars Fundraiser – the 7th and 8th grade choirs will sing.

23rd – Pre-UIL concert for all 7th and 8th grade students

March

6th – UIL contest at Denton High School – all 7th and 8th grade choirs will sing

8th – Amerithon Fundraiser – this is our last chance to raise funds to San Antonio and Hurricane Harbor

STRICKLAND'S "OUTSTANDING STUDENT COUNCIL"

Each Wednesday after school, 20-30 dedicated students gather in Ms. Van Aken's classroom with the sole purpose of making their school a better place. It's the SMS Student Council meeting, and the atmosphere buzzes with the energy of enthusiastic volunteers and natural leaders. The agenda for each meeting includes activities such as planning student dances, dreaming up ways to increase school pride, creating teacher appreciation gifts, changing the school's marquee, and helping out with fundraisers and community service projects. While this may sound like a pretty serious list of responsibilities, StuCo meetings are anything but somber. According to Vice President Timothy Perez, "it's all about helping others and having a good time."

In addition to the annual Howdy Dance, some of this year's projects have included a school-wide drive that resulted in the donation of more than 800 pounds of food to a local food bank, and a teacher appreciation potluck in which members served as decorating committee, wait staff, and clean-up crew. These activities offer a unique opportunity for students to learn the value of volunteerism. Sixth grader Zoe Graves says, "The reason I chose to be in StuCo was so I could help the school, and I wanted to do some sort of service."

Others join for the chance to be creative and find a sense of belonging. Seventh grader Zoe Bell likes that "it is a place to express yourself in whatever we are doing." Members will have ample opportunities to do just that in the next few months, as they organize the Valentine's Dance, plan and implement a service project to utilize a \$500 Meadows Foundation grant, and sponsor the Pasta for Pennies campaign for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Projects such as these go a long way in earning Strickland the honor of Outstanding Student Council from the Texas Association of Student Councils each year, as well as building valuable, lifelong skills for the students involved. Perhaps sixth grader Gabi Mantecon sums it up best: "For me, joining Student Council was a chance to make a difference in the school. When there's a big event, Student Council is there. We volunteer, we help out, we discuss issues, and we develop leadership skills. That's a major element of StuCo . . . being a leader. All types of people are needed: creative thinkers, artists, debaters, negotiators, and theorists . . . there's a place for them all."



YEARBOOK ORDER FORM - STRICKLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL - \$30

RETURN TO FRONT OFFICE OR ROOM 169 WITH YOUR PAYMENT!

You may also order your Yearbook online at:

<http://www.dentonisd.org/stricklandms/site/default.asp>

Student's Full Name: _____ Grade: _____

Order your YEARBOOK now and enjoy a lifetime of memories!

ITEM	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
Yearbook		\$30.00 EACH	
1 Line of Personalization		\$6.00	
2 Lines of Personalization		\$8.00	
Icons (1-4) *1 line of personalization must be purchased		\$3.00 EACH	

You can personalize your yearbook with your name or a special phrase or saying, and up to four icons. These will be engraved on your yearbook!

Enter personalization below. (at least one line of personalization must be purchased to order an icon)

TOTAL DUE: \$.
TOTAL PAID: \$.

Line 1: _____
Line 2: _____
Icon Code: _____ 2nd Icon Code: _____ 3rd Icon Code: _____ 4th Icon Code: _____

Personalization Icons

ICON CODE	ICON CODE	ICON CODE	ICON CODE	ICON CODE	ICON CODE	ICON CODE
5236 Graduation	5239 Choir	5004 Football	5979 Skate	5258 Swim	5247 Wolf	5257 Cross
5569 Senior	5019 Music	5005 Golf	5980 Color Guard	5241 Lacrosse	5248 Dogfish	5012 Peace
5670 Junior	9050 Guitar	5006 Soccer	5981 Motorcross	5360 Field Hockey	9073 Ram	5366 Maple Ln
5771 Sophomore	5015 Drama	5008 Tennis	5983 Surf	5242 Equestrian	9074 Lion	5367 Flag
5872 Freshman	5240 Painter	5009 Track	9001 Weightlift	5361 Snowboard	9078 Bull	5253 Butterfly
5973 8th Grade	5022 Journalism	5010 Volleyball	9007 Danceline	5246 Skateboard	9042 Dragon	5018 Hearts
5974 7th Grade	5982 Photography	5130 Wrestling	9025 Bowl	5362 Martial Arts	9051 Deer/Elk	5021 Smile
5975 6th Grade	5001 Baseball/Softball	5976 Crew	9006 Gymnast	5363 Hulaing	5023 Yb Yang	9028 Clover Ln
5011 Academics	9002 Basketball	5977 Dive	5013 Dance	5364 Football	5255 Crescent	9036 Rose
5238 Band	5003 Cheer	5978 Fence	5014 Hockey	5365 Eagle	5256 Star of	9037 Palm Tree

LIBRARY NEWS

The district's BOOK CENTS sale is right around the corner. Please continue to donate those books on your shelves you want to get rid of. The books will be sent to the PTA/Denton Public School Foundation Book Cents Sale held in February. Last year SMS got \$363.00 for our donations. Let's try to beat our own record. Our Winter Book Fair was a huge success. We purchased \$5469.00 worth of new books for the library and received an additional \$350.00 in scholastic dollars to purchase new resources for all grade levels. A big THANK YOU to our book fair volunteer: Suzanne Newcomer for helping out on the Fridays of the Book Fair.

Don't forget our district's databases to help you and your child with research resources. There are also many support downloadable items for adults such as social security forms, tax forms, and college and continuing education information. All tools parents need to help their children succeed. Go to the SMS Library Website and click on "Online Resources" then "School and Home Access" to check out our Online Databases, Online Encyclopedia (some in Spanish) and our new GALE Virtual Library which contains e-books on Science, Math, Technology and Biography. Also check out the super e-books (books you can read online or download to an e-reader or your smart phones) under "E-Books" including our Gale Virtual Library, Follett Shelf, Storynory, Tumblebooks and TumbleReadables and Storyline Online by the Screen Actors Guild.



March 1-4, 2012

Join us at our new location! **Golden Triangle Mall**

2201 S. I-35 E. • Denton, TX 76205

Look for us in the Sears wing of the mall across from American Eagle

Thursday, March 1 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm \$5 Individual \$10 Family Admission
Friday, March 2 10:00 am - 9:00 pm Free Admission
Saturday, March 3 10:00 am - 9:00 pm Free Admission
Sunday, March 4 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm Free Admission

Proceeds Benefiting:

PTA
everychild.onevoice.

Denton ISD
Denton Community Council of PTAs

Denton Public School Foundation

STRICKLAND VIKING BAND

4 FREE Tans (NEW Customers Only)
(Denton)
1/31/2013

Buy 1 Reg Roast Beef Sandwich. Get 1 FREE (Denton)	Black-eyed Pea 10% OFF Total Purchase (Excl Alcohol) (Denton)	Chicken 10% OFF Total Purchase w/ Any Purchase (Denton)	clj's FREE Chips & Salsa w/ Purchase of 2 Entrees (Hickory Creek)	2 Adult Buffets & 2 Drinks for \$9.99 (Denton)
Buy 1 Plate or Sandwich. Get 1 FREE (Denton)	Buy One Taco, Get 1 FREE (Excl Fajita Meat) (Denton)	golden coral 10% OFF Total Purchase (Denton)	Grandy's 10% OFF Total Purchase (Denton)	Jersey Mike's SUBS Authentic Subs since 1989 FREE Chips & Drink w/ Purchase of Regular or Giant Sub (Denton)
FREE Cup of Queso OR Sopapillas w/ Purchase of 2 Entrees (Denton)	10% OFF Total Purchase (Denton)	10% OFF Total Purchase (Excl Alcohol) (Denton)	METZLER'S 10% OFF Total Purchase (Excl Alcohol) (Denton)	ON THE BORDER FREE Cup of Queso w/ Purchase of 2 Entrees (Denton)
15% OFF Total Purchase (Denton)	FREE 22oz Drink w/ Purchase of 2 Entree Plate (Flower Mound/Denton)	Buy a Quesitos Sub or Reg or Lig Sandwich. Get Chips & Drink FREE (Excl Value Menu) (All 3 Denton locations)	20% OFF Total Purchase Over \$8 (Denton)	SportClips \$5.00 OFF MVP Service (Denton & Hickory Creek)

Valid Only at Participating Locations. Must Present Card at Time of Order. Not Valid w/ Any Other Offers/Specials/Coupons. One Use Per Person Per Visit Per Day Unless Specified. Offers Subject to Change w/o Notice. On 2 for 1 offers, Customer Pays for the Higher Priced Item. For Questions or Information Please Contact Bill GAME FUNDRAISERS at 469-500-2625.

The Strickland Viking Band is selling discount cards for \$10. The cards are

good for one year and each discount can be used multiple times throughout the year. The money raised will be used to support the growing band program at SMS. If you are interested stop by the band hall or email Ms. Stan at kstaniszewski@dentonisd.org
Thanks for supporting the SMS Band!

STRICKLAND PTA

THIS NEWSLETTER IS MADE POSSIBLE BY VOLUNTEERS OF THE STRICKLAND M.S. PTA. PLEASE JOIN TODAY AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

SMS PTA offers MANY volunteer opportunities to choose including:

- ✓ Viking Day
- ✓ Book Fair
- ✓ S.T.A.R Programs
- ✓ Registration
- ✓ Environment
- ✓ Parent Programs
- ✓ Arts in Education
- ✓ Memberships

If you are interested in joining the Strickland PTA, the membership price is \$6.00. If you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact the PTA president, Patrice Frisby at musical79@hotmail.com

Strickland Middle School
Denton Area PTA Council
1307 N. Locust St
Denton TX 76201-3037

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
DENTON, TX
Permit No.
00434

Current Resident or:

2011-2012 WINTER ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

TRACK

BOYS 7th & 8th GRADE BOYS AND GIRLS

Thursday March 1, 2012 at Ryan HS

Thursday March 8, 2012 at Guyer HS

Thursday March 15, 2012 at Ryan HS

District Meet - Thursday March 29, 2012 at Little Elm

