

STRICKLAND

Chester O. Strickland Middle School



Volume 1, Issue 2

NEWSLETTER

November, 2011

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE



Happy Fall to Strickland Vikings and Viking Families!

The 2011-2012 school year is off to a great start! At the end of the first grading period more than two thirds of our Strickland students were on the A/B honor roll! These students were

rewarded with a trip to our PTA STAR store, which is at the end of the day this year instead of at lunch.

Students are excited to receive this reward. You can help them achieve this goal by monitoring their 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.

The weather cooperated fully to allow parents, students and staff to work together to have a very fun and successful Viking Day on the 2nd Friday of October. This fundraiser helps support PTA projects as well as various Strickland teams, clubs and activities. Thank you to our many PTA volunteers!

Something most of you have already noticed is that Charter Builders has broken ground and begun construction of our new orchestra room which was part of the 2007 bond package. We will be able to observe rapid progress on this project throughout the year. Several other smaller projects will be completed as well. We are really looking forward to these updates!

Our athletic teams as well as our fine arts students have been busy competing with teams and students at the other middle schools. We have had students earn spots in All-District band, as well as All-Region Choir and All-Region Orchestra. It is hard to believe that football and volleyball seasons are over and basketball season is here! Our games and performances are always very well-attended, fun and exciting. I hope to see you at one of these events soon!

Kathleen Carmona

SPECIAL DATES

Nov 15 – Jazz Band Concert at Ryan HS
Nov 21-25 – Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 5-9 – Book Fair
Dec 6 – Orchestra Winter Concert
Dec 9 – Band Christmas Concert, 7:00 pm
Dec 15 – Early Release
Dec 16 – Early Release
Dec 19-Jan 2 – Winter/Holiday Break
Jan 16 – School Holiday



the difference
1 can make.

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!



STRICKLAND PTA



A big thank you to all of the volunteers that made Viking Day successful – special thanks to Viking Day chairs Joyce Renteria and Tammy Brooks for organizing such a successful event. What a beautiful day for SMS students to enjoy some fun in the sun!

Elsewhere in Mrs. Thomas' column, you will find information on the 4th annual BookCents Used Book Sale to be held at the Golden Triangle Mall in the spring. I encourage you as you clean up and out for the approaching holiday seasons to think about weeding out your home bookshelves as well. It is a great way to dispose of books we know we won't read again and make money for Strickland Middle School at the same time!

Be on the lookout for the NEW SMS HOODIES!

They have been ordered and will sell for \$20.

When they arrive, PTA volunteers will have hoodies available for purchase in the cafeteria during lunch periods.

Again, I want to encourage you to join PTA, if you have not. There is always a place in PTA for YOU!

Patrice Frisby

President

Strickland Middle School PTA



2011-2012 Hoodie Design

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.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

The SMS Counselors are hosting monthly New Student breakfasts. Our first one in September was a huge success with many of the students' teachers joining us as well. Our new students seemed to really enjoy the special attention!

We are also hosting another Coffee with the Counselors on Tuesday, November 29 in Mrs. Najjar's room 163 (first hallway to the right) from 8 – 9 am. Our first one was so much fun with about seven parents attending (we have room for many more and plenty of coffee!!). We welcome all parents, guardians, and grandparents. The best part of the morning was the sharing the parents did among themselves!

College Week is coming up the week of January 23, 2012. If you would like to donate college pennants, lanyards or other goodies from YOUR favorite college or university, please drop them off by the counselors' office anytime and thank you!

And, finally, we are still rewarding our students with the Viking Gold tickets and always need donations of small (\$1-\$3) gifts for them to choose from when their ticket is drawn. They do love sodas, candy and small tokens of many kinds. Again, thank you for your kindness and generosity to our students.

We continue the Chain Reaction of Kindness everyday!

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 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!

STRICKLAND VIKING BAND



The Strickland Viking Band is off to a busy start this year. The Viking Band, made up of over 100 7th and 8th graders, had its premiere performance on September 27th, as they cheered on the 8th grade football teams versus McMath middle school. The students in our

Honor Band played a wonderful concert at the Cumberland Children's Home annual Fall Festival.

Individually the students have been working hard preparing for our All-District Auditions that took place the last weekend in October. Strickland was privileged to host bands from across Denton in the All-District auditions on October 29th. A special thanks to all of the parents who volunteered and helped make the auditions a success. The beginning band is off to a great start. At 92 students, the beginning band is the biggest it has ever been. The first year Vikings are working very hard to learn how to produce a characteristic sound on their instruments. All beginning band students should be taking their instrument home nightly and practicing 30 minutes. The beginning band will make its debut performance at our Winter Concert on December 9th.

The Strickland Jazz band gave its first performance at the Woodrow Wilson carnival on October 28th. Our Jazz band will give a joint concert with the Ryan High School Jazz band on the evening of November 15th and will perform at the Denton Holiday Tree Lighting on the evening of December 2nd.

All of the Strickland Bands will participate in our Winter Concert on December 9th at 7pm in the SMS Auditorium. Please be sure to check the Strickland Band website often for updates and detailed information about upcoming performances.

VIKING DAY THANK YOU!

THANK YOU for all your help during Viking Day! We couldn't have done it without you. Now that we have gotten through the event I would like your feed back as to how we can make this day better. Tell me what you liked about Viking Day and any suggestion on how to make it better for next year would be greatly appreciated. - Tammy Brooks

Kevin Roden and the SUPER TAMS Students from UNT

Traci and Alicia Johnson from Wells Fargo

Lauren Fitzgerald UNT Concessions Manager

Barbara Clements UNT Concessions Asst'

FFA Dunk Booth

Joe's Jumps

Jason Jones Balloon Artist

Romans Pizza

NT Foods

All of the great SMS Staff and Students

Beth and the Cafeteria Staff

The Custodial Staff

All of the great volunteers

The woodworking classes at Strickland Middle School would like to thank the PTA for obtaining a new Radial Arm Saw for our woods class. This purchase will allow our students to cut material to the correct size with better and safer results. Thank you again for caring about our students.



Wyatt Carter cutting his lumber to correct size on the new Radial Arm Saw.



Gus Evangelista cutting his wood to correct length for his next project.



Kyle West cutting his material for his wood project.



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:

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Line 2:

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Icon Code:

1st Icon Code	2nd Icon Code	3rd Icon Code	4th Icon Code
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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 Dolphin	5012 Peace
5670 Junior	9050 Guitar	5006 Soccer	5981 Motocross	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 Weightlifter	5361 Snowboard	9078 Butt	5253 Butterfly
5973 8th Grade	5022 Journalism	5010 Volleyball	9007 Dance	5246 Skateboard	9042 Dragon	5018 Hearts
5974 7th Grade	5982 Photography	5130 Wrestle	9025 Bowling	5362 Martial Arts	9051 Deer/Elk	5021 Smile
5975 6th Grade	5001 Basketball/Softball	5976 Crew	9006 Gymnast	5363 Hulldog	5023 Yin Yang	9028 Clover Ln
5011 Academics	5002 Basketball	5977 Dive	5013 Dance	5364 Pawprint	5255 Star of Crescent	9036 Rose
5238 Band	5003 Glee	5978 Fence	5014 Hockey	5365 Eagle	5256 Star of Crescent	9037 Palm Tree

CHOIR UPDATE

The SMS Choir has had a very busy, but SUPER WONDERFUL start to the fall! Below are the upcoming dates for our parents and choir members. Please take special note that the Parent/Family Christmas Chorus will happen again this year. What a fun way to come out and get involved - hope to see you there!

November

- 12th - Saturday - All region Choir Clinic and Concert at Denton High School
- 18th - Friday - 2nd payment for San Antonio Due - \$50 for participating 7th and 8th grade choir members
- 21st - 25th - Thanksgiving Break
- 28th - Monday - 1st practice for the Parent/Family Christmas Chorus! 6:30-7:15 pm.

LIBRARY NEWS

September is gone, and we are in the midst of a wonderful Fall in the library.

We are now accepting all kinds of books for the book cents sale that benefits our school libraries. This year's sale will be held in February 2012 at the Golden Triangle Mall this year. Exact dates are to be announced. Donation bins can be found in the front hall by the attendance office and in the library. Adult, young adult and children's paper back and hardback books are accepted. We garnered \$323.00 from the sale last year. We want to get at least \$500.00 for new books for the library this year so clean out those closets and garages.

We have some more exciting changes in the library décor. Mrs. Fitzsimmons and Mrs. Arzate's art classes painted some wonderful murals in the library last May and Mr. Kurt Smith created floating bookshelves with the help of our library assistant, his wife, Gloria Smith. Jay Thomas of J. Thomas Custom Homes had his paint subcontractor paint two walls of the library a bright teal to tie everything together. Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Smith and Mr. Thomas.

We have seen all of our students at least five times since the beginning of school and have done orientation, an Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) lesson and an Online Database and search engine lesson, Copyright and Citing Sources and Primary Source Document lessons with them. The library is also in charge of getting students to sign their Internet Safety page so we will be doing that in November. Here is the link for you to get to the OPAC to search Strickland's Library, all other school's libraries in the district, the Denton Public Library system and the Denton ISD website:

<http://www.youseemore.com/DentonISD/school.asp?schooltype=ms&branch=046>.

You can get to the remote patron access for the databases and search engines by clicking the **Online Resources School and Home access button**. Remember your username for the Online Resources Home and School Access is your student or staff ID number and your PIN is the last four digits of your home phone number or whatever number used when you or your child was registered. If you have a problem with your PIN, just call or contact your librarian by e-mail. Contact information is below.

Go to the following link to get to the Strickland Library Website for cool links and research tools:

<http://www.dentonisd.org/5124281193720/site/default.asp>.

Looking ahead, the first book fair of the year will be held the second week in December from the 5th to the 9th in the SMS Library.

You can reach the library by phone at (940) 369-4236 or Mrs. Thomas by e-mail at rthomas3@dentonisd.org.

THEATER UPDATE



Join us for our fall production *Peter Pan and Wendy*.

We'll take you to Neverland on November 4th and 5th promptly at 7pm.

Flying passes are \$5.00 adults and \$3.00 Students

Our next play will be our UIL One Act competition piece performed on Star Night!!!

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, please contact Chandra Fuentes at chandrafue@verizon.net. 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

BASKETBALL

BOYS 7 th & 8 th GRADE		
DATE	TEAM	LOCATION
12/1/2011	Strickland @ Harpool	Harpool
12/8/2011	McMath @ Strickland	Strickland
12/12/2011	Strickland @ Lake Dallas	Lake Dallas
1/5/2012	Crownover @ Strickland	Strickland
1/12/2012	Navo @ Strickland	Strickland
1/13 & 1/14	7th & 8th A Teams	Decatur Tournament
1/19/2012	Strickland @ Little Elm	Little Elm
1/20 & 1/21	7th & 8th A Teams	McKinney Tournament
1/26/2012	Calhoun @ Strickland	Strickland
2/2/2012	Strickland vs. TBA	TBA
2/9/2012	Strickland vs. TBA	TBA

GIRLS 7 th & 8 th GRADE		
DATE	TEAM	LOCATION
12/1/2011	Harpool @ SMS	SMS
12/8/2011	@ McMath	McMath
12/12/2011	Lake Dallas @ SMS	SMS
1/5/2012	@ Crownover	Crownover
1/12/2012	SMS @ Navo	Navo
1/19/2012	Little Elm @ SMS	SMS
1/26/2012	@ Calhoun	Calhoun
1/30/2012	District Tournament	TBD
2/6/2012	District Tournament	TBD

GAME TIMES:

C-Team-@ 5:30

B-Team-5 minutes after the end of the C team game

A-Team-5 minutes after the end of the B team game