

Lufkin En-Lightning

Shining the light of success on all.

Message From Dr. Parry Graham, Principal



Sept. 1, 2009

Dear Lufkin Parents,

Happy September! Traditional calendar students returned to school recently, which means the roads are busy again, but here in year-round we are nearing the finish of our first quarter. Our students have settled into the new year, and I wanted to talk this month about some of the extracurricular opportunities available at Lufkin.

One of the advantages of middle school is that students have the opportunity to participate in sports, clubs, and after-school activities. In my experience, students who involve themselves in athletics or clubs have a strong sense of attachment to their school, learn important time-management and organizational skills, and develop positive peer relationships. If your child is not already involved in an extra-curricular activity, I would encourage you to encourage him or her to get involved.

For 7th and 8th graders, we have three sports options in the fall: football, girls' soccer, and volleyball. Tryouts were held recently and those practices have already begun. In the winter, we will begin girls' and boys' basketball, and in the spring we have track, boys' soccer, and softball. There is also a club baseball team that plays in the fall that allows 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to

participate.

In addition to sports, we have a variety of after-school clubs and activities available to students of all ages. Students who meet the eligibility criteria are invited to join the National Junior Honor Society and participate in community service opportunities. We have an art club that meets twice each month. For students with a literary bent, we have two options: the Newberry Club, which reads and rates newly published books, and the Battle of the Books, which has students competing in teams about their knowledge of a selected group of books. We have a jazz band for 7th and 8th grade students, which meets weekly during the first semester and performs a concert in December.



For students interested in math or geography, we have two options. The Math Counts program will be starting back up again in the next several weeks, and we have a new Geography Club this year. Two other new additions this year are our Step Team and Student Council. The Step Team provides dance opportunities for students, while Student Council allows students to get more involved in school-level decision-making.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the middle school years is that students start thinking about out who they are and who they want to be; they are excited to find peers with the same likes and dislikes, to explore new activities and interests. While this can sometimes lead in negative directions (a topic I will write more about in next month's letter), it more often leads in very positive directions. By getting involved in structured extra-curricular activities, students have the opportunity to explore their emerging personalities and self-concepts in a supportive environment. We hope that, if your child is not already involved in a sport, club, or activity, that he or she will consider becoming involved in the future.

Dr. Graham

Contents...

Principal's Message.....	1
Lufkin 6 th Grader Receives Award From 911 Center.....	2
Honor Roll Committee Needs New Members.....	2
Battle of the Books Club Meets First and Third Thursdays.....	2
Lufkin's Jennie Jones Chosen as Wake County's Middle School Physical Educator of the Year.....	2
Lufkin Registered for 'My Coke Rewards for Schools,' 'Box Tops' and 'Campbell's Labels' Rewards Programs.....	3
Scholastic Book Fair Volunteers Needed.....	3
Wanted: Flash Drives!.....	3
Focus on the Future.....	4
Lufkin Upgrades to Office 2007. Have You?.....	4
Knowledge Points Supports Local PTAs.....	4

Lufkin 6th Grader Receives Award From 911 Center

On Aug. 4, Barry Furey, Director of the 911 Center, came to Lufkin Road Middle School to present a "Great Job" Award to Nicholas Miller. Nicholas, a 6th grade student, has twice called 911 in order to enlist emergency medical assistance for his mother. Mr. Furey praised Nick for his good judgment and level headedness, saying he was very helpful to the dispatchers. At the presentation at Lufkin, Nick got to meet those dispatchers, Chris Mise and Stephanie Barnard.

Pictured: Nicholas Miller (center) with 911 dispatchers Chris Mise and Stephanie Barnard



Honor Roll Committee Needs New Members

Lufkin's Honor Roll Committee has openings for all tracks. All the current Honor Roll committee members have 8th graders so this will be their last year at Lufkin. If you're interested in becoming a committee member you can contact Cindy Riley at csriley@nc.rr.com or Susan Harrell at harrells4@embarqmail.com.

Lufkin's Jennie Jones Chosen as Wake County's Middle School Physical Educator of the Year

Lufkin Road Middle School is proud to announce that Jennie Jones has been selected the Wake County Middle School Physical Educator of the Year and is Wake County's nomination to NCAAHPERD for the State Middle School Physical Educator of the Year. Ms. Jones will receive her award and be honored at the annual NCAAHPERD convention in November.

Battle of the Books Club Meets First and Third Thursdays

The Battle of the Books Club will meet the first and third Thursdays of each month beginning August 6. This is *THE* club for avid readers who like competition! It is open to students in grades 6, 7 and 8, and will meet in the Media Center from 2:25-3:30 p.m.

The BOB list can be found on the Media Center webpage. Students will recognize some tried and true titles, such as *Bud, Not Buddy*, *Just Ella*, and *The View From Saturday*. Some of the newer titles added are *Drums, Girls, & Dangerous Pie*, *The Wednesday Wars*, and *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life*. This book list has something for everyone.

The county competition is typically the last Saturday in February or the first Saturday in March. The date has not yet been announced. As we approach the competition date, the club will meet more often.

If you have questions, contact Mrs. Ruby, Media Specialist, at 363-1079 or druby@wcpss.net.

Questions or comments about the *Lufkin En-Lightning* newsletter?
Email Beth Shugg at pta484@wcpss.net. Please submit October newsletter articles by Sept. 26.

Lufkin is Registered for 'My Coke Rewards for Schools,' 'Box Tops' and 'Campbell's Labels' Rewards Programs

You can also link your Harris Teeter and Food Lion grocery store cards to Lufkin

From Coke to Box Tops, there are plenty of ways to raise money for Lufkin Road Middle School. Here's the Lufkin rewards line-Up:

My Coke Rewards: to participate, go to www.mycokerewards.com and register to be a member of the program. Then, enter the codes on bottle caps, 12-packs or 24-packs of Coke products. Be sure to select Lufkin Road Middle so the points go to our school.

Box Tops for Education: cut them out and



Image provided by Coca-Cola

send them in to raise cash for Lufkin. Learn more at www.boxtops4education.com.

Campbell's Labels for Education: Remember, we do not save the front labels of soup cans, we save the UPC code and the pencil logo. Learn more at www.labelsforeducation.com.

Grocery store cards. If you haven't already, relink your VIC card at Harris Teeter and your Food Lion MVP card to Lufkin. It's so easy to do, and your school community appreciates every cent!

Scholastic Book Fair Volunteers Needed

Love books? Then you can volunteer to help at the Scholastic Book Fair. You can decorate and set up, help kids select books, be a cashier, monitor inventory, or help pack up. The Book Fair will be open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily from Monday, Oct. 12 through Friday, Oct. 23. This schedule allows for all tracks to visit the book fair. Give us a call in the Media Center at 363-1079 if you want to help out!

Lufkin PTA 2009-2010 Board

Cathy Wood, President
Deb Gebbia, Vice President of Programs
Holly Cameron, Secretary
Carolyn Matthews, Treasurer

If you are interested in becoming Lufkin's PTA President-Elect for the 2010-2011 school year, please email Cathy Wood at apexwoodpile@mindspring.com.

Wanted: Flash Drives!

Lufkin Road Middle School is teaming up with Kramden Institute, Inc., a not-for-profit Durham organization, to put computers in the homes of approximately 25 Lufkin students. These computers have been refurbished and will go to deserving students who do not have computers at home. This is a very worthwhile cause as we work to bridge the gap between home and school with these students. The computers will be awarded in mid-September, and we hope to be able to present each student with a flash drive so that they can save their files and continue working either at home or at school.



We are asking Lufkin families to donate new flash drives with at least 2 GB of memory. They cost about \$12. The donations will be accepted in the Media Center during regular school hours. We also welcome businesses to sponsor this cause. As you make your donation, please let us know your name so that we can properly thank you!

You may check out Kramden Institute's website at www.kramden.org. This is **the third year** Lufkin has partnered with Kramden, and this program has enriched the lives of many Lufkin students! If you would like more information, please contact Diane Ruby in the Media Center at 363-1079, or druby@wcpss.net.

Focus on the Future

By Mirka Christesen, AG Teacher for Lufkin

“Back to School” at Lufkin is way out of date when traditional schools are just re-opening their gates after the long summer holiday. “Prepare Yourself for the Future,” however, is not. That is the message of the mural on the way to the school cafeteria.

Since July 7, a huge ice cream cone with scoops of rainbow-like colors has been inviting students to stop and share their dreams of the future on sticky notes. What are our students’ dreams? Which professions are attractive for them? Can you guess? Here are the responses we have received: “I WANT to:

- be one of the world’s top architects
- be a doctor
- be a forensic scientist and solve crimes
- be a zoologist
- be a professional soccer player
- be a pro volleyball player
- become an awesome gymnast
- be an actress
- be a pop star
- be a mom
- be prepared
- finish school
- be rich
- be a princess
- be cool
- be good at a thing
- do well in school

Here you have it from your classmates who shared their dreams of the future. What’s your dream? Start working toward it now. Research the profession that appeals to you, check out books on the subject, speak with people who are your role models, know what skills and education you need to have, and try to learn as much as you can to excel in the area of your dream. Focus on the Future – now!

Knowledge Points Supports Local PTAs

In the spirit of community partnership, KnowledgePoints will make a donation to local PTAs for every student who enrolls in one of its programs. Lufkin has already received a donation thanks to this program. Be sure to mention this if you decide to enroll your child in one of Knowledge Points’ programs. Visit www.knowledgepoints.com to learn more.



Above: “Prepare Yourself for the Future” mural. Whether in 6th, 7th or 8th grade, it is never too early to start thinking about your future.

Lufkin Road Middle Has Upgraded to Office 2007. Have You?

Can’t open documents in Blackboard or email attachments? Lufkin upgraded from Office 2003 to Office 2007 at the beginning of July. It has been a learning process for us all! You may find that documents in Blackboard were more than likely saved as Office 2007. Teachers are now making an effort to save their work as Office 2003 to accommodate students and parents. At school we are encouraging students who have Office 2003 at home to save their documents appropriately before using the Digital Dropbox feature in Blackboard.

Microsoft offers a free download, which enables Office 2003 users to open Office 2007 documents. Google “Microsoft Compatibility Pack 2007,” download the free software, then run the program. It will minimize future difficulties and it’s easy!