



Salem Salamander News

Newsletter of the Salem Elementary School PTA

6116 Old Jenks Road, Apex, NC 27523

School Telephone: 363-2865

Savon Willard, Principal
Denise Kiser, PTA President

Volume 7, Issue 6
February 2007

From our Principal:

Because it is the policy of Salem Elementary School to keep parents and guardians informed, I would like you to be aware of a drill we plan to conduct at school during the next few months. Since safety is a priority at our school, we have taken steps to help our teachers, students and community better prepared in the case of an emergency.

Schools may go into lockdown after conferring with WCPSS Security staff and/or local law enforcement. When law enforcement officials determine events they are investigating in the community near a school warrant, they notify WCPSS Security staff and the school and may recommend a community lockdown.

In a community lockdown, all exterior doors of the school are locked and no one is allowed to enter or exit the building until the all-clear announcement is given. The school operates "business as usual" with the exception of no outside activities.

A higher-level lockdown is used when an intruder is thought to be on campus. This is a code red lockdown. Procedures are similar to the community lockdown. In addition, classroom doors are locked, lights are turned off and students are moved to a safe place in their classroom.

We will be conducting this drill so that faculty, students and our community are familiar with these procedures. Working with our law enforcement agency and WCPSS Security, we can better prepare our students, faculty and staff for the unexpected. It is important for our students, parents, teachers and our community to see that we are vigilant and have well-established procedures in place during the time of an emergency.

Thanks for your continued support of teaching and learning at our school and of keeping our students safe.

Student Promotion Site Redesigned

North Carolina public school students are required to meet statewide standards for promotion from grades 3, 5 and 8 and high school graduation. The standards, also called gateways, will ensure that students are working at grade level in reading, writing and mathematics before being promoted to the next grade. The Student Accountability Standards' site has recently been revamped to enhance its functionality and to make it more user friendly. The site includes information about policy, standards, intervention strategies and more. Additionally, the site features information designed for parents.

Bookmark <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/promotionstandards/> today.

New Kindergarten Health Assessment

The new North Carolina Kindergarten Health Assessment (KHA) form and Instruction sheet are now available at no cost from the School Health Unit in the Division of Public Health or the form may be downloaded from the Healthy Schools' site. Visit <http://www.nchealthyschools.org/> and click on the appropriate link for more details.



President's Notes

Thank you to all the students who participated in this year's Math-a-Thon! We had a great time honoring those students at our awards ceremony. The PTA truly appreciates all the parents, students and sponsors who helped with this fundraiser. A very special thank you goes to Anna Johnson and the entire Math-a-Thon committee for their hard work and dedication. Few people realize how much time and effort goes into our programs and fundraisers. Math-a-Thon has always been a fundraiser that incorporates many stages of planning and organization. Anna Johnson did a fantastic job making sure that this fundraiser ran smoothly. Thank you Anna and your committee for all your time and enthusiasm!

We hope everyone enjoyed our Spirit Night at Carrabbas on Tuesday, January 23rd. I know we enjoyed the carry out service. Please stay tuned to your Friday Folders for more information on our next Spirit Night event.

We all look forward to collecting items for Will Power again. I want to thank Alison and Tommy Hager, the organization's founders, for their tremendous help getting this together. The Salem Elementary family looks forward to participating in this wonderful event again this year. Please watch your Friday Folders for more information on this wonderful service project. I know that delivering the pillow cases to UNC Children's Hospital will be a rewarding experience once again.

A nomination committee for next year's PTA Executive Board has been formed and is being chaired by Laura Linton. We need volunteers for some positions on the Executive Board. If you have any interest in serving on our Executive Board, please speak with Laura Linton. If you are approached about serving on the PTA Board, please give it consideration. All current Board members will tell you that serving on the PTA Board has been rewarding. You, too, will find that your time can help the success of our school. Some positions require more of a time commitment than others. Our current board members range widely in their time constraints due to family and professional obligations. You will find that there are several board positions that fit your schedule and the amount of time you are willing to commit. Salem Elementary is proud to have one of the most active PTA units in Wake County! Please consider joining our Board as an officer or chairperson and see how gratifying it can be to work for your child's school!

If you have any questions or interest in running for a position, please contact Laura Linton (303-9003) or anyone on the current board. I would be happy to answer any questions about the duties and time commitments of all positions. Please feel free to contact me at 363-9041 or jkiser@nc.rr.com.

Another big thank you goes out to all the Salem Elementary families for all your dedication to our school.

Denise Kiser, PTA President

Inclement Weather Day – January 18, 2007

The Wake County Public School System will not be required to make up the inclement weather day on Thursday, January 18th. Since school buses were in operation, and during that time it was determined that schools should be closed due to weather conditions, the school day will not be required to be made up, and the school day will count toward the required 1,000 hours of instruction. Requirements of G.S. 115C-84.2 and State Board of Education policy relative to school closings due to inclement weather and emergency conditions are summarized below:

A. School Calendar: Each local board of education shall adopt a school calendar to include a minimum of 180 days and 1,000 hours of instruction covering at least nine calendar months. The school calendar shall include a plan for making up days and instructional hours missed when schools are not opened due to inclement weather.

If school is closed early due to inclement weather, the State Board of Education shall allow the day and the scheduled amount of instructional hours to count toward the required minimum number of days and instructional hours. **If school buses are en route to schools when school is canceled for the day, then the day and instructional hours scheduled for that day will count toward the required minimum.**

Magnet Programs

Application Schedule

- Kindergarten registration begins February 1, 2007 (all magnet applicants **must be registered** in the Wake County Public School System before submitting a magnet application.)
- Families will be able to see all their assignment options online by Feb. 7, 2007
- Magnet applications are available online starting February 12, 2007. The application period ends February 28, 2007. *Magnet applications will only be accepted online.*
- Applications must be time-stamped electronically no earlier than February 12, 2007 and no later than February 28, 2007.
- All magnet applicants will be notified on or before March 15, 2007.
- The last day to decline a magnet offer will be April 13, 2007.

For more information about Magnet Programs visit <http://www.wcpss.net/magnet/>

WILL POWER



What is WILL POWER?

WILL POWER is an organization started by Alison and Tommy Hager in honor of their son Will. This organization is committed to delivering helpful supplies to children and their families during their stay at NC Children's Hospital in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

How can you help?

Look for more information in your Friday Folders explaining the needs of this organization and instructions on what to give. The items must be NEW. The drive will be running for 2 weeks starting Monday, January 29th through Friday, February 9th. Bring items to school and place them in the box in the front lobby. The students at Salem will be making pillow cases in class for the donated supplies.

Suggested items:

A full list will come home in Friday Folders broken down by grade. Please feel free to add items if you have any new thing that might make a family's stay better. There is a big need for pre-paid phone cards and Wendy's gift cards (there is a Wendy's in the hospital). The students at Salem love this service project and the entire Salem family is looking forward to another great year for WILL POWER.

Thank you for making a family's hospital stay a little more comfortable; a little more like home.

2007-2008 PTA Executive Board

- *It is that time of the year again! Our PTA Executive Board Nominating Committee is currently accepting nominations for PTA Board positions for next school year. Many positions are available. Several positions nicely lacerations / stitches*
- **sprains / fractures**
- **burns / skin irritations**
- **insect & animal bites**

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

**“How to Make Your
Children Happy”**

**Monday, February 5, 2007
SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
6:30-8:30pm**

Never in the history of mankind has parenting been so challenging. On the one hand, parents have more options than ever before, and children have unprecedented opportunities. On the other hand, “parenting” is being sacrificed for “relationship,” and children are at greater risk for academic and social failure.

Come Share Parenting Ideas On How To...

- Balance privilege with responsibility
- Encourage respectful behavior
- Promote motivation and effort as keys to success and happiness

Presented by Katharine Leslie, Ph.D., CFLE – Nationally recognized expert and author on parenting and parent-child relationships

Baucom Elementary, Salem Elementary, and Salem Middle PTAs are very proud to co-host this event. Please come out and join us for this helpful & informative workshop.



Salem students chosen by their classmates who demonstrate KINDNESS:

Kindergarten: Benjamin Ring, Christopher Batttaglino, Sam Nicholas, Judy Chow, Bryanna Inness, Jack Borts

1st Grade: Midori Salgado, Alexandra Skrinak, Osman Mohamid, Sunghun Jeong, Zandy Knoke, Bobby Gunshefski, Gabriel Enoch, Jack Stiglitz

2nd Grade: Luke Bishop, Lauren Blanton, Evelyn Prete, Sarah Sinawi, Austen Jones, Lilly Dunn

3rd Grade: Megan Johnson, Conner Monroe, Olivia Bradley, Baileigh Baker, Elizabeth Key, Kenny Jones

4th Grade: Damond Harris, Eliza Poe, Jacob Krevat, Sophie Curtis, Caley Dunn

5th Grade: Brett McMillan, Courtney Schlachter, Nicholas DiBari, Christen Yang, Brooke Bodaine

Skip-its: Dafne Katsarou



CHARACTER CORNER:

INTEGRITY:

“What Integrity Means” by Terry Cole-Whittaker: Integrity means to be who you are. Being true to one's self, one's values, beliefs, and standards is essential when it comes to spiritual success. Everywhere around us, people and situations are pulling at us to forget our priorities and to follow unwanted and unproductive ways. That is why it is difficult to make the changes we would like. If we are to be, do and have what is important to us, we must be strong and courageous and therefore **hold our own** in any and all circumstances.

HOW STUDENTS CAN DEVELOP INTEGRITY, Personal application and examples:

1. How can you be who you are and still please others? Is seeking approval worth it?

When we pander for approval from others and trade our values and beliefs for it, we will suffer the consequences.

2. Goals require sacrifices

What ever we want to attain, we must let go of the lesser in order to obtain the greater. Old habits of thinking and behaving prevent us from manifesting our topmost desires and goals. There is no way that one can continue to behave as a victim and also become victorious.

3. Be true to yourself

Allowing others to determine what we think, feel, say and do means that we shall become as they are. “To thine own self be true,” is a must if we are to be all that we are capable of becoming. Once we can see how we are swayed this way and that by the desires, words and actions of others, we can begin to make progress. Then an inner resolve to be true to one's self, goals, ethics and principles needs to be made.

In conclusion, points to remember are:

- Avoid compromising situations.
- Keep your conversation on a high level and do not succumb to theirs.
- Keep your goal in mind and act accordingly.

HOW PARENTS CAN DEVELOP INTEGRITY:

1. Develop a “Family Code of Ethics” as a family and discuss the issue of honesty.
2. Institute an honor system so that your children learn to monitor their own behavior and come to understand the concept of doing the right thing as its own reward.
3. Explain plagiarism to your child. Many students don't realize that inserting information verbatim from an encyclopedia or the Internet is against the law.
4. Don't allow the burning of CD's that are copyright protected by anyone in the family.
5. Don't engage in gossip, and don't allow your children to do so.
6. Teach your child how to budget their money. A great deal of dishonesty results from the inability to pay debts.
7. All students know it's wrong to cheat, but often feel pressured into less than honest behavior. Explain to your children that even if they aren't caught copying someone else's work, or letting a classmate copy theirs, an immediate problem may be solved but this will inevitably lead to others:

- Not learning important information included in the copied assignments;
- Not getting necessary practice, i.e., math processes, spelling.
- Failing tests based on the copied work, including those required to pass to the next grade.
- Lowered self-esteem that accompanies failure and the knowledge that you had to cheat to pass.
- It also doesn't lead to any understanding of what they are “writing.” Monitor their work before they turn it in. Ask them questions about the factual content of what they've written. Do they know the answers?

Quote of the Month:

“Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is watching.” Jim Stovall

* Information from the Go With Character Group, WCPTA.

FABLE OF THE MONTH:

THE BOY WHO CRIED WOLF



There once was a shepherd boy who was bored as he sat on the hillside watching the village sheep. To amuse himself he took a great breath and sang out, "Wolf! Wolf! The Wolf is chasing the sheep!" The villagers came running up the hill to help the boy drive the wolf away. But when they arrived at the top of the hill, they found no wolf. The boy laughed at the sight of their angry faces.

"Don't cry 'wolf', shepherd boy," said the villagers, "when there's no wolf!" They went grumbling back down the hill.

Later, the boy sang out again, "Wolf! Wolf! The wolf is chasing the sheep!" To his naughty delight, he watched the villagers run up the hill to help him drive the wolf away. When the villagers saw no wolf they sternly said,

"Save your frightened song for when there is really something wrong! Don't cry 'wolf' when there is NO wolf!" But the boy just grinned and watched them go grumbling down the hill once more. Later, he saw a REAL wolf prowling about his flock. Alarmed, he leaped to his feet and sang out as loudly as he could,

"Wolf! Wolf!" But the villagers thought he was trying to fool them again, and so they didn't come. At sunset, everyone wondered why the shepherd boy hadn't returned to the village with their sheep. They went up the hill to find the boy. They found him weeping.

"There really was a wolf here! The flock has scattered! I cried out, 'Wolf!' Why didn't you come?"

An old man tried to comfort the boy as they walked back to the village.

"We'll help you look for the lost sheep in the morning," he said, putting his arm around the youth, "Nobody believes a liar...even when he is telling the truth!"



Literacy News

Laurie Ann Harvey and Stacy Bigham

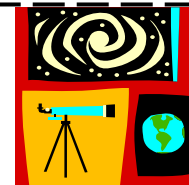


We want to thank those of you who attended our 2nd parent workshop on writing. We appreciate your commitment to learning more about how to help your child excel. Here are a few points to remember about helping your child with writing.

- Designate a specific spot in the house for writing. Load it with different writing utensils (markers, white boards, crayons, different kinds of paper, etc)
- Model writing for specific purposes (grocery lists, menus, to do lists, etc)
- Write thank you notes to special people.
- Write an exciting story and read it to someone.
- Remind your child that good stories have a beginning, middle, and end.
- Ask your child to tell you the process for writing (planning, first draft, revising and editing, publishing)
- Remind your child that good writers write all the time and they improve with every piece.

As always, email either one of us with questions or comments. We are sbigham@wcpss.net and laharvey@wcpss.net.

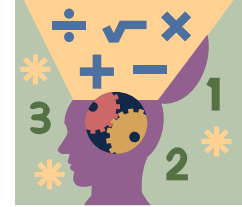
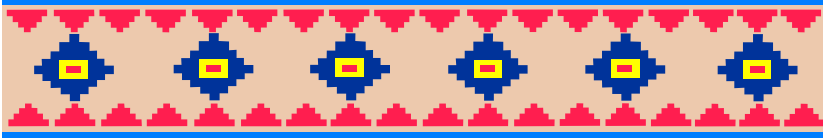
REMEMBER TO READ EVERY NIGHT!



Salem Science Fair

Tuesday, February 13

- 5PM – 7PM Science Fair Open for Viewing
Everyone is invited!
- 7PM – 8PM Interactive Science Show and Awards Ceremony

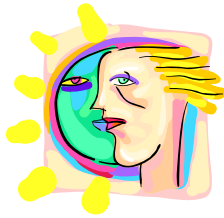


Cultural Arts News

Important Dates

Tuesday, February 20 StageWorks Theatre will be here for an assembly For the K-2 grade levels

Monday, February 26 Glenn McNitt, an Origami artist, will be Working with the 2nd graders



Reflections Program

We want to congratulate our school finalist who went on to represent Salem in the Wake County competition!

Miranda Chartier (Grade 2) Lindsey Flowers (Grade 3)
Nina Owens (Grade 4) Annie DiSano (Grade 5)

A reception will be held to congratulate all the students that participated in this year's program. Further details concerning the reception will come at a later date.

We are so proud of everyone. The Reflection's committee looks forward to next year's contest and having even more entries from our Salem Salamanders!

Heather Battaglino,(benny1068@earthlink.net) and
Kelly Cox Jones, bogey1@nc.rr.com
Reflections Program Co-Chairpersons

Super work on Math-a-thon!

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Math-a-thon! Our students worked very hard, had fun, and made over \$5,000! All proceeds will go towards the purchase of new hardware, software, and other related items for our children to use.

The Math-a-thon would not have been possible without the help of many volunteers. They copied and stapled over 800 packets, came into school to collect tests, graded them, returned them to the students, researched and ordered the awards for our children, and stuffed over 350 goodie bags! Thanks to each of you for donating your time to raise money for our school!

If you have not yet turned in your pledges, please send them in as soon as possible.

We are very proud of all the students who participated – WELL DONE!!

Anna Johnson
Math-a-thon Chair
annajohnson@nc.rr.com



The Art By Me fundraiser is returning this spring to Salem Elementary and the children have already begun working on their masterpieces. The magnets are scheduled to go home some time in March and all orders placed will be ready and returned in plenty of time for Mother's Day. More information will be coming soon. If you have any question, please contact LeAnn Jackson at 387-4993.

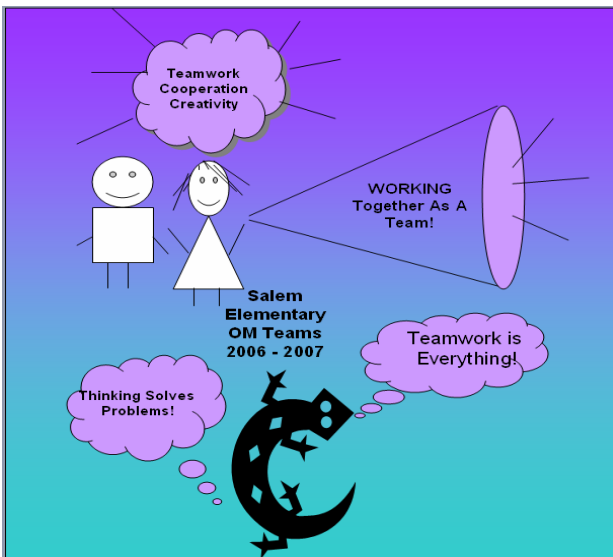
**"Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind."
– William Shakespeare**





Nicole Brugnoli: Odyssey of the Mind T-Shirt Winner

Salem Elementary has a huge presence at the North Carolina Eastern Region Competition. This year, we have entered five Division I teams (3rd – 5th graders) and five Primary teams (K – 2nd grade). At competition day, we Salamanders stand out in our matching t-shirts. The Division I teams were asked to submit designs that would represent Salem Elementary. Nicole Brugnoli submitted the winning drawing! Why did Nicole's drawing win? She incorporated some of the most important concepts we strive to teach our OM-ers..... Teamwork! And Problem Solving. She and the rest of the 5th grade team worked with Sujata Shirsekar, OM Sponsor, to convert her drawing to a digital image.



Pictured above are the digitized version of Nicole's drawing and the 5th Grade OM Team: Sara Knowlson, Nicole Brugnoli, Uma Mengale, Christie Kendall, Gregor Ingram, and Ryan Schmedding. Not pictured, Nicole Maselli



The Odyssey of the Mind Competition is Coming!

March 3rd is the Odyssey of the Mind Eastern Region Competition. The OM program strives to teach kids to work together efficiently in a team of 5 – 7 kids, to solve problems. It fosters team work, brainstorming, and critical thinking. Salem Elementary has registered 5 Division I teams made up of 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. We also have 5 primary teams made up of Kindergarteners, 1st, and 2nd graders attending the competition. Just registering to attend the competition is a huge TEAM EFFORT because so many volunteers are needed. Each team needs a coach, a judge, and a competition volunteer. Coaches are volunteer teachers and parents while our judges are volunteer teachers from Salem Elementary. The competition volunteer is usually a parent who will assist in one of the many activities on competition day such as running food and water to the judges or holding the doors clothes when teams are performing. Without all of these volunteer coaches, judges, and competition help, our Salamanders could not participate in the events. We owe all of these volunteers a great big THANK YOU.

I also wanted to recognize each Salamander who has been working hard to solve their problems, to learn the various brainstorming techniques, and to learn to work in a team environment. Good Luck to you all! I know you will make Salem proud on Saturday, March 3rd.

Division I Teams

Around the World in 8 Minutes (Classic Problem)

Nicole B, Gregor I, Christie K, Sara K, Nicole M, Uma M, Ryan S. (Coach: Rosemary K)

I am Only Thinking of You! (Humorous Problem)

Emily B, Jessica C, Rachel G, Marianna O, Bryann P, Katherine R, Sydney R (Coaches: Tina R, Lorraine C, Karen R)

Out of the Box (Balsa Wood Structure Problem)

Fumi A, Nalandra C, Adithya I, Emma O, Colin R, Nikhil S, Zach T (Coaches: Sujata and Navin S)

Tag ‘EM (Vehicle Problem)

J.P. H; Christopher I, Rohan K, Suhas R, Quinn S, Zach S (Coaches: Stacey I, Bindu N)

The Large and Small Of It (Technical Problem)

Abigail B, Claire F, Jarod J, Jacob K, Michelle L, Rom P, Sapna R (Coaches: Maria J, Madhavi K)

Primary Teams (Time Capsule Problem)

2nd Grade Team

James L, Simon L, Surabhi M, Brent S, Pragun S, Reese W, Symone S (Coaches: Sherri L, Elizabeth S)

2nd Grade Team

Jason B, Kelsey C, Mridu N, Alex R, Heezy S, Rebecca H, Ashlyn W (Coach: Marley B)

2nd/1st Grade Team

Gracie C, Alex R, Jack R, Kiran R, Midori S, Manali S, Ally T (Coaches: Jeff and Rosanne T)

1st/K Team

Peter B, Ryan G, Meghna I, Morgan J, Samuel J, Jiahni S, Courtney S (Coach: Angela G)

1st/K Team

Isabel C, Alejandro E, Sameer M, Zir P, Pragya S, Maya S, Hannah W (Coaches: Ananda S, Alberto E)

Judges

Katie Anderson, Beth Chappell, Stephanie Hall, Gerald Harvey, Sarah Malone, Laura Mashburn, Shannon Ortiz, Faith Perkins, Lisa Shankle, Sandra Wagner

LIFE STORIES



LifeStories In February

In February, the LifeStories curriculum will be presented to all students, K-5, for a second time. Presenting the stories a second time provides teachers the opportunity to talk about the character traits and social skills in more advanced ways and permits students to learn these skills in new ways and coordinate them with academic learning. The LifeStories curriculum will continue through the month of April. The third and final data collection will commence at the end of April. New permission forms are not needed, but it is never too late to turn in an outstanding form.

Meet the Storytellers



Willy Claflin is a Parents' Choice Gold Award and a two-time winner of the American Library Association Notable Children's Recording Award. He tells stories on the *LifeStories* K-2 and 3-5



Donna Washington is a winner of the 2006 Storytelling World Award and is featured at the North Carolina Storytellers Guild, the North Carolina Library Association Annual Conference, and the Annual North Carolina Elementary School Conference. She tells stories on the



Olga Loya is the recipient of many international story awards and commendations such as the International Reading Association Award, and is regularly featured at the annual National Storytelling Festival. She tells stories on the *LifeStories* 3-5 DVD



LifeStories for K-2

In February, K-2 students at Salem will watch and discuss these *LifeStories for Kids* stories:

Little Freddie and His Whistle (Week of 2/5) *Little Freddie and His Whistle* is a folk tale that teaches the character trait *Kindness*.

I Am A Frog (Week of 2/12)
I Am A Frog is the story about Gorf the Frog who learns the character trait *Self-discipline*.

Ka-Ulu The Strong (Week of 2/20)
Ka-Ulu The Strong is an ancient Hawaiian story about two brothers who learn the character trait *Responsibility*.

Look What You've Done (Week of 2/26 for K & 1st grade only) *Look What You've Done* is a tale made up by Rocky the Raccoon that teaches the character trait *Good Judgment*.



LifeStories for 3-5

In February, 3-5 students at Salem will watch and discuss these *LifeStories for Kids* stories:

Anansi and the Turtle (Week of 2/5)
Anansi and the Turtle is a classic African (Ghana) tale that teaches the life skill of *Respect*.

The House That Talked To Itself (Week of 2/12) *The House That Talked To Itself* is a classic analogy of *Cooperation*, which encourages appreciation and respect for differences.

Wise People of Helm (Week of 2/20)
Wise People of Helm is a story from classic Jewish folklore that teaches the life skill of *Compromise*.

Red Hat/Blue Hat (Week of 2/26)
Red Hat/Blue Hat is a tale about two moose who enter into a disagreement and learn the life skill of *Perspective Taking*.



Spring Event Update

MARK THAT NEW 2007 CALENDAR!

Please make sure that the first date you mark in your **new 2007** calendar is our Spring Event, The Amazing Race, Salamander Style. It will be on **Friday, May 18, 2007** from 5:30PM – 9:00PM . Our event core committee is working hard and preparing for a whole committee meeting. Please stay tuned for meeting information. If you signed up to help with this event, you will be hearing from us shortly. For those of you who have visited Salem’s Spring Event in the past, and have any suggestions or comments for this year’s event, feel free to share them with us. We are always open to new ideas. We look forward to meeting with all the event volunteers. If you are interested in helping with the pre-event planning, and have not signed up to do so, please contact one of the event chairs below. Also, remember our auction’s success is based on the items we have available to win! **If your company/place of employment is in a position to donate items or gift certificates for goods and/or services, and would enjoy being very well recognized for their donation, please let us know!** The more we have in the auction/raffle, the more successful our fundraiser will be!

Laura Linton
303-9003
dlinton@nc.rr.com

Nicole Ridout
303-5892
nridout@nc.rr.com

Dates to Remember

Thursday, February 1 st	6:30 PM	PTA Board Meeting Dr. Katherine Leslie at Salem Middle
Thursday, February 5 th	6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Auditorium
Monday, February 12 th		Spring Pictures
Tuesday, February 13 th	5:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Salem Science Fair
Friday, February 16 th	1:00 PM	Early Release
Monday, February 19 th		No School – Teacher Workday
Thursday, March 1 st	6:30 PM	PTA Board Meeting
Thursday, March 15 th	6:30 PM	General PTA Meeting, Language Arts
Tuesday, March 20 th		Golden Corral Spirit Night
Monday, March 26 th		No School – Teacher Workday

**Please note that the days of the week were wrong for the February dates in January’s Newsletter. I apologize for the inconvenience. Madi K.*

This issue of the Salem Elementary Newsletter is brought to you by Accent Urgent Care. Thank you!

When Mom Can't Make It Better... We Can!!

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