



# Salem Salamander News

Newsletter of the Salem Elementary School PTA

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Savon Willard, Principal  
Denise Kiser, PTA President

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## From Our Principal

### That time of year

This is the time of year during which we need to focus on school attendance and student health. The flu season is upon us. Preventing the flu this season is important; teachers and students need to be in class on a daily basis ready to learn. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has asked principals to remind teachers and parents about the three key steps to remember to help prevent the flu.

- Remind children to wash their hands with soap and water frequently to reduce the risk of infections.
- Remind children to cover their noses and mouths with disposable tissues when coughing or sneezing. They should then throw the used tissue in the trash and wash their hands with soap and water.
- Parents of sick children should keep their children home whenever they are running a fever.

Whenever your child is out of school, you will still receive an automated call from Wake County Public Schools. Even when you call the school to let us know that your child will be absent, you will still receive a call. This is a double check for parents, and a reminder to send in a note upon the student's return to school. Without the note from you, the absence is considered unexcused.

Please make sure your home and work phone numbers are correct in the school office. This is the time of year that we are often finding changed numbers, disconnected phones, and new numbers. Make sure you keep the teacher informed of any changes so we can contact you in an emergency or if your child is sick. I wish you a happy and **healthy** New Year!

# Notes From Our President!



**Welcome Back!** I hope everyone had a great holiday break. As we approach the halfway mark for the school year, we look forward to our upcoming PTA events.

The 2007-2008 Math-a-Thon is underway and all packets and sponsor sheets are in the process of being returned. It looks like we had great participation in this event! We look forward to seeing all students who participated in the Math-a-Thon at our awards ceremony on Thursday February 21, 2008 at 6:30PM. Please remember that ALL students who participate in the Math-a-Thon, regardless of sponsorship, will be recognized that evening. A big thank you goes out to Anna Johnson and Jennifer Mauney for co-chairing this event. You guys have done a great job once again.

Don't forget about this year's yearbook! We are putting the finishing touches on it before it goes to print. Please remember to watch your Friday Folders for ordering information as pre-orders will be the only way to purchase a yearbook.

We also look forward to many other events, including a few Spirit Nights, Will Power collection, Spring Harvest for the Ronald McDonald House and the Western Wake Crisis Ministries Office, and another great Spring Event. Please look for more information in your Friday Folders, including how you can help with these great opportunities.

The PTA Board is pleased to announce that the construction of our two shade structures should begin this month. We hope to have them completed by the end of February at the latest. A big thank you goes out to all who have helped us achieve this wonderful gift to all our students at Salem Elementary. I am sure our students will be thanking us this summer when they are able to enjoy the shade.

Finally, it is difficult to believe, but this is the time of the year when we need to start thinking about next school year's PTA Board. There will be more information to come regarding the Nominations Committee. Please consider serving on our Board as an officer or committee chairperson. You may contact me, Denise Kiser, at [jkiser@nc.rr.com](mailto:jkiser@nc.rr.com) if you have any questions as you are considering a Board position.

As always, I thank all of you for your dedication, hard work, and continued support that you provide to our PTA and Salem Elementary Staff. I look forward to an exciting and productive 2008!

*Denise Kiser, PTA President*

## Volunteer of the Month



### **Congratulations to January's volunteer of the month, Matthew Krevat!**

Matthew is the father of three Salem salamanders: Jacob in grade 5, Joey in grade 3, and Leah in kindergarten. Matthew is our resident funny guy. He has been working with the Odyssey of the Mind teams, teaching them about humor and improv. And he knows comedy! With 27 years of improv experience under his belt, Matthew directs, teaches, and performs improv comedy with Raleigh's Village Idiots ([www.idiots.net](http://www.idiots.net)), an improv comedy group that performs at the North Raleigh Arts & Creative Theatre ([www.nract.org](http://www.nract.org)). According to Rosanne Taft, the OM-ers love him and are learning how to take risks without fear of failure. This will be important for their skits, as well as the spontaneous requirements. Matthew, we thank you for putting all those smiles on the children's faces!

Do you know of a Special Salem Volunteer? We'd like to highlight someone new each month. Let us know whom **you** recommend!

Karin DellaMaestra at

[dmaestra@mindspring.com](mailto:dmaestra@mindspring.com)

Karyn Knoke at [Karknoke@aol.com](mailto:Karknoke@aol.com)



### **YEARBOOK SHUTTERBUGS WANTED!**

Do you have a great shot of your child or their classmates enjoying a special class event, field trip, etc? Upload your digital photos to our yearbook Web site and your photos may appear in the 2008 yearbook.

Please include the teacher's name and the event in your photo description. Here's how to do it:

Step 1: Log on to <https://portal.jostens.com/login.asp>

Step 2: User ID: 1137277

Step 3: Password: salamander

Follow the upload instructions and include your photo description. Contact Marley Braun at [marley@nc.rr.com](mailto:marley@nc.rr.com) or 342-7184 with any questions or if you have problems.



## Media Matters

### STORYTELLING Part II

By Sandra Wagner

#### The Process

Here's the question, do children need to understand the process of research? Do they need an established set of procedures to accomplish the end results of a finished project? As parents, we need to ask ourselves, "Does my child understand how to locate materials in a library catalog understanding the differences between subject, title, and author?" Whenever I visit the public library, I notice that most adults working with their children are the ones doing the online searching in the catalog. Most of the students at Salem understand that a call number represents the book's address yet many of them still have difficulty locating a nonfiction book on the shelf. Test your children ask them to locate fiction and non-fiction materials in the library. Ask them to do a subject search and find the book in the library. Parents helping students practice some of the library skills they learn at school can only add up to success. The next part of the process is note taking, not simply finding information on the Internet, printing it, pasting it on a poster board, and calling that research. After the note taking, comes organization: How will I put my information together and what conclusions can I make from the research? In conclusion, I would expect students to understand how to locate, read, take notes, and organize information. Next month I will continue describing the process.

#### BOOK FAIR INFORMATION

In March, we will have our spring book fair. There will be many changes in the spring fair. One of the biggest changes will be that students will be allowed to purchase books on the first day of the book fair. We will not have an official preview day and the book fair will have longer hours. More information will be coming.

# THANK YOU

We would like to extend our heart felt thank you to all of the families and staff members who donated items for the annual Toy Drive and the Salem Care & Share Program benefiting our very own Salem families in need. Through your amazing good will and generosity, 36 families and more than 100 kids were given a very wonderful Christmas! In addition, we delivered toys to the Ronald McDonald House of Durham and stuffed animals to the Apex Fire Department. A very special thank you also goes to Kathy Von Achen, Target and Debbie Murphy from the YMCA and her preschool class, for their most generous donations and help! Our Salem Salamander pride continues to shine through our dedication and commitment to serving our school and the community. Thank you Salamanders! You are amazing!

Lisa Sanchez and Heidi Van Brocklin

On a personal note, I would like to thank several gals for going so far out of their way to make sure these families' wishes would come true! Liz Upton, Kim Wallace and Stephanie Bagwell; during this most stressful and hectic season, you put aside your own "To Do" lists and made sure that every single last wish was granted! Your kindness and help really showed me the true meaning of good will this season! "Thank you" will never be enough! To all of the moms who showed up to wrap more gifts than we could have imagined! Thank you!

Lisa



**Happy New Year, Martin Luther King Day, and President's Day.**

## Odyssey of the Mind

### Important Dates

All 12 teams have registered for Salem Elementary. Recently the Eastern Region Competition date was changed from Saturday, March 1 to Saturday March 8. Please take notes of the upcoming OM events and their dates (some have changed since we all signed up back in August).

#### **Saturday January 26, 2008**

*Spontaneous Fair - Creekside ES, Durham*  
Attendance is strongly recommended for Division I students.

#### **Saturday February 9, 2008**

*Judges Training - Rashkis Elementary*  
If you are a teacher who volunteered to help us out and judge, the training is required (even if you attended the training in a previous year). Sujata and Rosanne would like to thank the teachers who volunteered to help us out. Without their support, our teams could be assessed penalty points or may even be held back from competing.

#### **Wednesday March 5, 2008**

*OM Nite – Salem Elementary*  
First Performance will start at 4:30PM - Dry runs will take place on OM Nite. Teams will perform their Long-Term Solution. All Salem Elementary students and their families are invited to watch these impressive “Student Created” performances. Come cheer on your fellow students, and learn about what Odyssey of the Mind is all about!

#### **Saturday March 8, 2008**

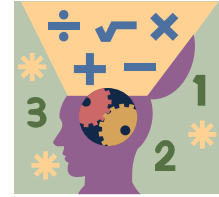
*Eastern Region Tournament - Chapel Hill*  
Any Division I team that places first or second in their overall problem category will go onto to compete at the state level, which will be held at ECU.

#### **Saturday April 5, 2008**

*State Tournament - East Carolina University*

#### **May 31 - June 3, 2008**

*World Finals - University of Maryland*



## **Math-a-thon is Coming to an End**

Congratulations to each and every student who embarked on this year's mathematical journey and participated in the Math-a-thon. They all did a great job! We are very proud of our Salem Elementary budding mathematicians!

If your child is planning to participate, please make sure the Math-a-thon packet and any sponsor information are completed and returned to your student's teacher by:

**Track 1 & 3: Tuesday January 22, 2008**

**Track 2 & 4: Monday January 28, 2008**

This will ensure that all participating students are given credit at the PTA Award Ceremony on **Thursday February 21 at 6:30PM**. Please make plans to attend the Award Ceremony with your students!

PTA volunteers will be marking each student's packet and will return it, along with instructions on how to return all money if you have sponsors. All sponsor money is due by:

**Track 1, 3, 4: Friday February 29**

**Track 2: Monday March 17**

Thank you so much for your participation and support. The combined effort of students and sponsors has made this year's Math-a-thon a huge success!

Many thanks,

Anna Johnson and Jennifer Mauney  
Math-a-thon Co-Chairs  
[annajohnson@nc.rr.com](mailto:annajohnson@nc.rr.com) or 303-6579  
[jennifer\\_mauney@yahoo.com](mailto:jennifer_mauney@yahoo.com) or 367-254

### **Attention Grade 5 students and parents . . . Grade 6 Open House Dates:**

Salem Middle	January 24 6:30PM
Lufkin Road Middle	February 15 10AM, 6:30PM
Dillard Drive Middle	April 15 6:00PM

*\*See middle school Web sites for tour information\**



Congratulations to the following students who were chosen by their classmates as demonstrating COURAGE:

Kindergarten: Ben Johnson, Price Teachey, Nicholas Zoccola, Dylan Turner

First Grade: Donovan Keith-Marenya, Blake Edwards, Amrutha Nandamfor, Emily Moshinski

Second Grade: Jiahui Shen, Kristin Verdi, Bertoldita Perez, McKenna Seward, Sahana Prakash, Cameron Ingram, John Bradley

Third Grade: Simon Li, Noah Lehner, TJ Williams, Will Hager, Victoria Banks, Dylan Drewnowski, Alex Ramsey

Fourth Grade: Drake Crosby, Danny Martin, Yannet Daniel

Fifth Grade: Jose Bernal, Fumi Agboola

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday January 3	6:30PM	PTA Board Meeting
Monday January 7		Math-A-Thon Slip of Intent Due – Track 1
Monday January 7 – Friday, January 11		Grade 3 CogAt – Track 1, 2, 3
Friday January 18		Math-A-Thon Packets and Sponsor Sheet Due – Track 1 & 3
Monday January 21		Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday No School
Thursday January 24		Science Fair
Friday January 25		Math-A-Thon Packets and Sponsor Sheet Due – Track 2 & 4
Saturday January 26		OM Spontaneous Fair
Monday January 28 – Friday, February 4		Grade 3 CogAt – Track 4
Thursday February 7	6:30PM	PTA Board Meeting
Saturday February 9		OM Judges Training
Thursday February 21		General PTA Meeting, Math-A-Thon Recognition