From the desk of the Principal

The holiday season is upon us and our students are working hard to earn gifts from Santa! Thank you for sharing the gift of your children and sending us your best. Our students and teachers continue to make strides towards Excellence. Overall our students are cooperating with each other and demonstrating positive behavior and good citizenship. Our students are embracing the purple and gold and our suspension rate is steadily declining. Our academic goal is to increase our FAST 1 assessment scores by 10 percentage points. We are counting on you to work with your child to maintain focus.

All students in grades 6-8 will take an MSA Practice Test during the week of December 12th. Quarter 2 FAST assessments will be administered during the week of January 3, 2012. Please ensure that your child completes the winter homework packet that will be distributed on Monday, December 20th. He or she should also read daily and take advantage of our online programs such as MSA Study Island, Achieve 3000 and Odyssey Math. Our students have also received information regarding educational websites.

We are looking forward to celebrating our students' gifts and talents during our First Annual Literacy Strategy and Skill Seasonal Jubilee on Thursday, December 8th and Winter Concert on Thursday, December 15th.

Dr. Veonca Richardson, Principal

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DECEMBER 2011

Upcoming Dates

- December 9 - PBIS Celebration
- December 15 - Winter Concert
- December 20 - 2nd Quarter Progress Reports Released and 2nd Cup of Coffee for Parents
- December 22-26 Schools closed
- December 27-January 2 Winter Break
- January 20 - End of 2nd Quarter

A child’s life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark. ~ Chinese Proverb

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**Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) is designed to measure the improvement of each school every year. It is based on the percentage of the students receiving proficient on MSA in reading and math as well as the attendance rate being at 95% or greater. Attendance includes coming to school daily as well as coming on time. Reviewing the chart on the left you can see the school is only at a 92.72% overall. The school needs everyone’s support in making sure every student makes it to school on time (8:30 a.m.) every day. It is the goal of Andrew Jackson Academy to make AYP for the 2011-2012 school year, let’s not allow attendance to be the reason that we do not achieve it.**
First Quarter Grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>4.00</th>
<th>3.99-3.00</th>
<th>2.99-2.00</th>
<th>1.99-1.00</th>
<th>0.99-0.00</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 4</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 7</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>3</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The chart above is the breakdown of the Grade Point Averages (GPA) in the 2nd-8th graders for the 1st quarter. A 4.00 is equivalent to an “A”, 3.00 is a “B”, 2.00 is a “C”, 1.00 is a “D”, anything below is equivalent to an “E”. Almost 80% of the students fall in the 3.99-2.00 range which is very good. Each student should have his or her own personal goal to improve for the second quarter. The area of concern are those students who have a 1.99 and below GPA. In order to improve the grades there has to be a connection between home and school. Students need to complete homework at home and/or study the notes from the day. It takes everyone to ensure students are learning and growing.

Jaguar Tip of the Month: Responsibility

As you know Andrew Jackson Academy is implementing the PBIS program that focuses on the positive things the students do verses the negative, for example raising your hand vs. shouting out. In the newsletter for September we looked at the first “R” for “Respect”. In this newsletter, we are focusing on the second “R” for “Responsible.”

Being responsible means we come to school on time every day, wearing our uniform and with our completed homework in our backpacks from the night before. Responsible also may mean we take the books and notes we need to complete our homework home with us. When we are responsible, we also make sure our parents see all the information our teachers send home for them to see. Setting a good example for younger siblings and other students at Andrew Jackson is another part of Responsibility.

At school, a student can earn a Jaguar Ticket for demonstrating Responsibility when they walk quietly in the hallways between classes or on their way to the cafeteria. They can also earn tickets for being Responsible when they return important information to school from home. Responsible students at school are those that accept consequences for misbehavior and learn from their mistakes to be more appropriate during the school day. Students who exemplify Responsibility are role models for younger students in the school and try every day to set a good example for all students.

At home Responsible may mean cleaning up after we eat or make a mess in our room. Responsible may also mean walking with our younger and older brothers and sisters to and from school and making sure that everyone stays safe. Responsible boys and girls follow their parents’ rules and know the consequences for misbehavior. They also complete their homework when they get home and make sure to take time to study before watching TV and playing videogames.
Title I News and Updates

WE NEED YOUR INPUT! During the next few days, your child will bring home several very important papers. As a part of our continual efforts to involve parents in the decision-making process about our school activities, expenditure of parental involvement funds, and school governance, we need your feedback on the HOME SCHOOL COMPACT and the PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY.

- The **Home School Compact** is an agreement between the Andrew Jackson Academy staff, parents, and students. It details our commitment to work together to promote and improve parental involvement, home-school communication, school climate, and student learning. The compact is aligned with our School Improvement Plan priorities.
- The **Parent Involvement Policy Plan** is designed to ensure a collaborative partnership among school, parents, and community. Andrew Jackson Academy accepted the Prince George's County Board of Education system-wide Family Involvement Policy and has attempted to align the goals, objectives, and activities into our plan.

PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO REVIEW THE TWO DOCUMENTS, PROVIDE COMMENTS OR MAKE SUGGESTIONS FOR REVISIONS AND RETURN IT TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR CHILD!

**School Programs**

**Meet, Greet, and Read with the Principal at Spaulding Library**

**Saturday, December 3, 2011**

10:30 am - 12:00 noon

It is time to begin our Saturday “**Meet, Greet, and Read with the Principal**” Literacy Program. This Saturday, we want all of you and your children to come out to the newly renovated Spaulding Library, located at 5811 Old Silver Hill Rd. District Heights, MD 20747. As we continually promote literacy, we want you and your parents to visit the library to learn about the many resources that are available, get a library card, and show that literacy is important.

**Monthly "Cup of Coffee"**

We would like to thank all of the parents who were able to join us for one hour of their morning to participate in our PARENTS' Roundtable Discussion. On November 17th, an enthusiastic group of parents met to discuss the different techniques used at home to assist our children. Parents were able to share some of their own ideas while gaining new ideas. We hope that you will be able to break for our 2nd **Cup of Coffee on Tuesday, December 20th**— 8:45 – 9:45 AM.

**First in Math**

Special Congratulations to Andrew Jackson Academy for having the top middle school educator in First in Math. The teacher received 5,757 stickers for the month of November. We were not the top school in stickers but we had the top teacher! The goal is the have enough students playing First in Math and earning enough stickers to bring home the December Trophy.