

# *JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE*

*"Excellence is not a destination, but a continuous journey that never ends"*

*- Brian Tracy*

November 2, 2009

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

**What has changed?** Recently I have been asked by several of you what will be changing. At this time, there is only one change that is certain. High School will be going from A/B block to a seven period day. Middle school has experienced no changes. There is a consideration to eliminate teaming in the eighth grade, but it is only a consideration. No other decisions have been made.

What will not change is our commitment to providing the best educational and extracurricular program possible. We are still Driscoll. We will still be here every day to do our very best for our students, our families, and our community. Speculating and worrying about what could or might happen can only distract from our most important task; securing the success of our students right now. Driscoll is every student, every family, every staff member, and every part of our community. That will never change!

**Congratulations!** Our seventh and eighth grade girls' volleyball are coming to the end of a great season. Our seventh grade girls finished at the top, being undefeated in district. Our eighth girls had an equally impressive record with only one loss in district. Both teams finish their seasons with a non-district game against Bush Middle School on Thursday, November 5, 2009. Congratulations again to all of our Lady Defenders!

**Football** - This week our seventh and eighth grade boys will be finishing out their football season. We are proud of our boys and the great determination, attitude, and sportsmanship they have shown. This week the games will be on Tuesday and Wednesday due to the time change.

**Benchmark Lockdown** – This Wednesday, November 4, 2009, we will be taking our math benchmark exams. This is a very important test because it helps us gauge where our students are and what areas we need to focus on to prepare them to do their best on the TAKS test. Remember, this year we want to make Driscoll the exemplary school it should be. The benchmark exam is an important step in meeting that goal as well as our continuing journey to excellence. Please make sure that your students get plenty of rest, and have a good breakfast on Wednesday.

**Academic Pep Rally** – Wednesday, November 4, 2009, in the afternoon following the benchmark exams, we will be holding our first Academic Pep Rallies. The first rally will begin at 1:07 p.m. with seventh grade. This will be followed by seventh and sixth grade. Parents, you are welcome to attend.

**Veterans Day** – Wednesday, November 11, 2009, we will be holding our annual Veterans Day observance. This year we will be holding our ceremonies in the afternoon as opposed to the morning. This will allow those of you with children in other schools to attend in the morning, and still be able to attend at Driscoll. More details will follow in the next newsletter.

**Regional Auditions** – This Saturday, November 7, 2009, many of our band and orchestra students will be auditioning for Regional band and orchestra. Driscoll has one of the best band and orchestra programs of any middle school. We extend our best wishes to all of our great musicians.

**Magnet Monday** – Monday, November 2, 2009, there will be a Magnet School night at Bradley Middle School from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. It is an opportunity for eighth grade parents to get information on the Magnet programs available in NEISD. Attached is a flyer with more information.

**Mental Wellness** – In an effort to promote health and wellness, NEISD has held Asthma Blowouts. On Thursday, November 12, 2009, there will be a Mental Wellness night at Johnson High School. There will be some very informative seminars for parents. Dinner will be served from 5 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. This event is for parents and adults, and toddler care is available while parents attend information sessions. Attached is a flyer with more information.

**Dance Clinic** – On Saturday, December 5, 2009, there will be a dance clinic held at Churchill High School. The cost is \$30 per attendee, and it is open to girls from pre-K (minimum age 4) to ninth grade. Attached is a flyer with more information.

This week at Driscoll, the following events will be taking place:

**Monday, November 2, 2009**

Magnet Monday – Bradley MS 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 3, 2009**

FB v Bush Middle School 4:30 p.m.

8 Dark -Home/7 Light -Away

Election Day – **Don't forget to Vote!**

**Wednesday, November 4, 2009**

Math Benchmark Lockdown

FB v Bush Middle School 4:30 p.m.

8- Light - Home/7 Dark -Away

**Thursday, November 5, 2009**

VB v Bush Middle School 4:30 p.m.

8-Away/7-Home

**Friday, November 6, 2009**

N/A

Have a great week!

Peter A. Martinez

Principal

Driscoll Middle School

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”

- Benjamin Franklin

**Saturday, November 7, 2009**

Region band auditions

Region Orchestra auditions