

The DSA Performer

2415B North Druid Hills Road, NE Atlanta, Georgia 30329

The mission of
DeKalb School of
the Arts is:

to provide the
highest quality
education
through
academics and
the arts.

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links to test prep
sites for our
students and
parents.

http://fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us/~rodney_f_swanson/

FROM YOUR PTSA

On the roller coaster that is DSA, we are just now approaching the top of that first big hill, the one called The Fall Mainstage Production. I'm sure you'll agree it's been quite the ride so far, what with non-stop auditions & rehearsals, the premiers of DRC, Highleit and Drama Ensemble and the Spa Dance. We are not chugging along, we're racing, and it feels so good.

I want to thank all the parent volunteers who have given so freely of their time and money. There is almost nothing that happens at DSA that our parents don't have a hand in. And, I'll bet there's not another school in Dekalb County that comes close to matching our level of parental involvement. (That sound you hear is a round of applause for your unflagging energy & dedication!)

The PTSA closet is, once again, filling up with cases of drinks and snacks. Please, keep them coming. We need these foodstuffs for rehearsals and for pre-test breakfasts. Remember \$5=1 Volunteer Hour/up to 10 hours per semester. And, just so there is no confusion: one hour of work=one volunteer hour. Just remember to keep track of your hours in the Volunteer Books in the office.

Have you done your part yet? The various committees can use all the help they can get. A list of committees and their chairpersons is included in your student directory. Put your interests, your skills and your time to work for our students by signing on. Your PTSA is one area in your life where you can make a real difference and have a far-reaching impact on the education of your child and all the other students at DSA.

And if you haven't yet met your financial obligation to DSA, here's the breakdown: PTSA dues--\$6, Enrichment Fund--\$50 per Family, Student Snacks--\$25 (not \$20 like it's incorrectly listed on the PTSA registration form). This fund provides for breakfasts during testing & snacks for rehearsals during tech weeks of the three major productions.

If you have discovered a need that the PTSA can meet, let the Board know. Your PTSA is all about enhancing the school lives of every single student who attends DSA.

Sincerely,
Co-Presidents:

Cyd Hoskinson
Hoskinson@aol.com

Vice President:
Juliana Lancaster
Lancaster@mindspring.com

Ralph Robinson
rrobins4@bellsouth.net

Secretary:
Vickie Bracewell
vickiebracewell@bellsouth.net

Treasurer:
Pam Allen
PTMA829@aol.com

Principal's Notes

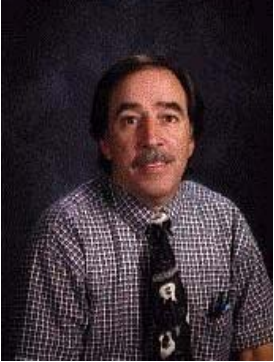


November is here and that means students really need to be preparing for the end of the semester. Seniors will be taking the End of Course Test in Economics which will count for 15% of their final grade. This is a statewide test and all students are held accountable for the same material. **For all the math and world language students, a reminder that these classes MUST be passed with a 70% or higher to continue in the DCSS magnet program.**

- Students: have you earned at least ONE production credit this semester? For continuation in the DSA magnet program, students must earn TWO credits a year. If you have production credit questions, contact Mr. Nealer.
- Parent: have you earned at least 20 hours of volunteer time this semester? DSA works best when all members of the school community are involved. There are so many opportunities for parents to be a part of the school program. The volunteer book is located in the main office.
- Thanks to [Saxon Uniform Network](#) for the donation of over \$1900 in dinner jackets to use for costumes or other uniforms for groups.
- Have you noticed the nicely trimmed bushes around the marquee? Mr. Cermack, father of Jason (8th grade) has donated several hours of trimming and shaping to get our entrance and courtyard in shape. We will hopefully be getting a donation of gravel, stone or mulch to further enhance these areas.
- The 8th graders worked diligently on the [ITBS](#) testing this month. Thanks to all the parents, especially to Dean Surbey and Marilyn Surbey for coordinating the food and overseeing the distribution to students.
- Another great month of productions and more to come in November with many opportunities for parental support. Be sure to check [the calendar](#) for concerts, plays, talent shows and other events.
- Congratulations to the new 2004-2005 [All State Chorus](#) members: Michelle, Murphy, Amanda Newton, Sakinah Davis and Reginald Smith, Jr! These students will rehearse and perform in Savannah with guest conductors during the second semester.
- We look forward to seeing parents at the November 4th parent/teacher/student conference night. All teachers will meet with parents in their regular classrooms. Parents - wear your walking shoes! Also, on November 4th at 7 pm is the PTSA general meeting. Our young poets who presented for [Russell Simmons](#) will share their talents.

Speaking of Russell Simmons, his visit to DSA on October 21st was AWESOME! Over 75 students competed to be a "Def Poet" for the event. Marlon Allen, Krishana Anderson, William Berry, Brandon Chubbs, Samu'l Collier, Victor Conde', Amber Granderson, Stanley Rucker, Jasmine Verreen, Chris Watson. Ms. Lynn Johnson and her creative writing student organized the contest and chose the best-of-the-best to present. Media, newspaper and yearbook students all had "back-stage" passes for the event and were first up for interviews with Russell Simmons and his brother, Rev. Run. It was exciting to have our students in the media limelight for such a positive experience. We hope HBO will bring more guests our way. Thanks to Ralph Robinson and his "crew" for providing extra security for the day.

Susan M. McCauley, Principal



DSA MEDIA DEPARTMENT

Media students have successfully produced eight weekly school news programs and are now in the process of creating a Halloween Special for Media time. The program will be viewed during lunch and will include segments from different media classes.

PTSA: Thanks for the Chroma Key Curtain that will advance our media department. This will allow students to set for advanced special effects such as weather maps and moving backgrounds.

Programs: There are still videos available for past productions, including Highleit, DRC, Drama Ensemble, and Music Ensemble. Also, if there are people interested in purchasing the taping of the Russell Simmons event, please contact Mr. Mastrogiacono. Tapes are \$10

Personalized Music Videos: We have already earned \$200 for our program.

Our Media program still has the fundraiser for YOUR special events. (Birthdays, anniversaries, and reunions) Choose 30-40 pictures, add some background music, titles, and we will take care of the rest. Please take advantage of the opportunity to document and unite all of your memories on video. Only \$30

Flyers and order forms are available in the media room or contact Mr. Mastrogiacono.

Parents!!! There are opportunities to assist with media projects such as, room decoration, cataloguing tapes and other media tasks. If anyone is interested in what we are doing, please come by for a mini tour. All volunteers and contributors are greatly appreciated for giving the media students the opportunity for success.

Thanks to the work done by our Media Rep, Andrew Scott.

Frank Mastrogiacono, Teacher
Shellie Robinson, Writer



Mock Electronic Ballots Cast at DSA

On October 28 and 29 the DSA newspaper, The Edge, and Multimedia classes hosted a mock election. Student cast their ballots during Social Studies classes. Like Georgia's election, DSA's election was completely electronic. The students created an online database to store the votes with a web interface that includes Flash. Student voters received a voting code number to serve as a pass code. The pass code will be good for only one vote. After school on October 29th the results will be displayed on the web site: <http://www.sodano.org>.

This election has been an ongoing project by Dr. Verna Sodano- Richards' Multimedia class and is integrated with the school newspaper, The Edge. Team leader, Jacob Goins along with Sara Day, William Negus, and Terrance Singletery have worked diligently to make this project a success.

TEST PREP

TEST	GRADE	DATES	CORE CONTENT	ROOM
Criterion Referenced Competency Test (CRCT)	9th	October 6 November 3	Math/Science Reading/History	3:30-4:30 B01
End of Course Test (EOCT)	9th	December 1 January 5	Algebra 1/Lit Biology/ Geometry	3:30-4:30 B01
End of Course Test (EOCT)	10th	March 9 April 13	Geometry Physical Science	3:30-4:30 B01
Graduation Test (EOCT)	11th	January 12 February 9	Math/Science Lang Art/ Social Studies	3:30-4:30 B01



Dance Department News

The Dance Department is busy, busy, busy! Rehearsals have begun for "Dancescapes" Dance Concert 2005. This year's concert is as diverse as ever. Ms. Malave is setting a modern piece to the music of Miles Davis and Mr. Williams is using dancers on pointe and flat in his new ballet work.

Our guest choreographers include: Seen in the touring company of "42nd Street" and also in the touring company of "Tap Dogs", Jason Kalish returns to DSA with a fun and challenging piece set to "Tequila." Nyama McCarthy-Brown, a dance teacher at Martin Luther King High School is choreographing a Modern/African fusion dance that is going to be very interesting. Lori Teague, professor at the [Emory University](#) Dance Department, will ask the dancers for their choreographic input as well as her own brand of unique movement. And, of course, it wouldn't be the Dance Concert, without one of Marci Lefkoff's "too hot" Jazz numbers.

In addition, Alan Arnett, professor of Dance at [Shenandoah University](#) in Virginia, auditioned and set his piece in 4 days. This Latin tinged jazz dance will rehearse once a week to keep it fresh. Alan also taught two master classes. The experience was a great opportunity for our students.

Congratulations to Amber Mack, Major Nesby and Christine Terrell; these seniors were selected to choreograph pieces for the dance concert as well.

Speaking of master classes, Maria Bauman, of the modern dance group, [Urban Bush Women](#) taught a class October 14th. The company will return in February for a show at the Rialto. The African Dance and Drum Group, Somato, brought live drummers and energetic dance class on the 18th and Michelle Kranicke and Emily Stein of [Zephyr Dance](#) of Chicago offered their brand of modern dance on the 28th. We appreciate all of these fine teachers who come and give their expertise to our students.

Mr. Williams, students and parents experienced the fantastic modern dance company [Philadanco](#) in Athens on the 22nd. After the show the students were able to meet some of the dancers in the lobby and on Philadanco's Bus (!)?

A big THANK YOU to Jondra Taylor for her help in DRC's Mardi Gras mask fundraiser and also to Debbie Frazier for help in transporting students to a last minute performance on the steps of the State Capitol.



Social Studies News

The Social Studies Dept, along with Dr. Richards' computer class, will be conducting a mock election here at DSA. Students will be able to cast their votes for each candidate within a two-day period. The computer class will then inform us on how students voted in different categories. Students in Ms. Thomas' Social Studies class will also be writing political editorials to be placed in a Special edition of the DSA newspaper later on in Oct.

World History sophomores, along with the AP Art History class, attended the [Greek Festival](#) this month. They toured the Greek Orthodox Church, viewed a History Channel documentary about Alexander the Greek, attended a Greek dance performance, and enjoyed authentic Greek food.

[Math Department](#)

Parents- Please make sure your child is bringing their math book home EVERYDAY and studying a little EACH NIGHT. Students have a much greater chance of being successful in their mathematics courses when they study a little EVERYDAY, not EVERY OTHER DAY. If your child needs more practice problems, please contact their math teacher. Math is not a spectator sport.... the only way to improve is by actually picking up the pencil and working problemsEVERYDAY.

Artistic Director's Notes:

DSA has started out the 2004 season with one of the strongest displays of talent in the school's recent history. Those of you who attended the premiers of our touring companies, DRC, Highleit, and Drama Ensemble, were certainly in for a treat. These shows were uniformly excellent, providing stellar showcases for our students. Moreover, these shows will continue to represent DSA in the most positive of lights, as we take them on the road in the upcoming months. Our touring shows are major PR tools for DSA, taking our work out into the metro area. In this way, we spread the news of DSA's reputation of excellence throughout the community. For instance, in the upcoming weeks Drama Ensemble will compete in the Georgia High School Association's one-act play festival as well as being evaluated for performance at the Georgia Thespian Conference. These venues provide a wonderful format for us to share our work with other high school's in the region and the state.



We are currently in rehearsals for our Fall Drama and our Winter Dance Concert. In fact, our Fall Drama, *Terror by Gaslight*, will run at DSA this month. Mark your calendars for November 12th-14th. You will not want to miss out on all the spooky fun of this show. It is guaranteed to have you screaming with laughter, if not horror, at all of the macabre antics set in a turn of the century anatomy school. Mr. Kenny Pillow, who brought you last year's *Blather, Blarney and Balderdash* directs this melodramatic thriller.

Student performers will also want to mark your calendars for the week of November 15th when auditions will be held for the Black History Month touring production directed by our own Astrid Maurer-Evans.

Also, in October our students performed for Russell Simmons of HBO's Def Poetry fame. With local and national press on hand, our selected students put on a show to be remembered. The Poetry Slam style involves both creative writing and performance, which suits DSA students' talents particularly well. Congratulations to our young spoken word artists that participated in the event. Your performance was superb. We hope to see more of this kind exhibition of our students' skills at DSA in the future.

From time to time the DSA arts faculty members get an opportunity to practice their craft professionally. I would like to invite the DSA family out to see what I have been working on. My production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* runs at Atlanta Classical Theatre in the 14th Street Playhouse's stage 3 space through November 14th. It runs in repertory with another show, so performances are not every night. The show has a PG rating. To see a schedule of performances and to order tickets go to www.atlantaclassical.org. Be sure to let them know you heard about the show through DSA, as we are trying to track where the audience members are coming from.

Dr. David M. Klein, Artistic Director



DSA STAFF EMAIL

(append @fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us
to the following)

Pamela_G_Aiken
 Karen_R_Andersen
 James_T_Anderson
 Karen_B_Summers
 Michael_S_Bell
 Cheryl_Benefield
 Margaret_W_Bowen
 Daniel_E_Bowman
 Shon_M_Demby
 Bonnie_L_Diamond
 Kim_E_Erickson
 Jeffery_S_Funderburk
 Cale_H_Golden
 Patricia_K_Grey
 Anne_M_Harris
 Judith_A_Holley
 Wesley_A_Hunt
 Dawn_N_James
 Barbara_L_Johnson
 Lori_W_Johnson
 Pamala_D_Jones-Malave
 David_M_Klein
 Candace_F_Lambert
 Marci_M_Lefkoff
 Frank_M_Mastrogiacom
 Astrid_M_Evans
 Susan_M_McCauley
 Jeffrey_M_Nealer
 Lourdes_Perdomo
 Tanya_O_Persaud-White
 Raymond_K_Pillow
 Anette_Roussel
 Verna_Sodano-Richards
 Rodney_F_Swanson
 Karen_A_Thomas
 Deidra_C_Webb
 Evelyn_A_White
 Dean_L_Williams
 Eric_D_Winchester
 Thomas_E_Yon

Volunteers Corner

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUPERVISION AND SECURITY

"Thank you" to those that helped with the DRC/Highleit Premieres and the Chamber Music Concert. Our next "tour of duty" will be to cover the Fall Mainstage Drama. Those dates are Nov. 11 - Nov. 14, with evening performances Thursday - Saturday, and a Sunday matinee. If you'd like to volunteer to do backstage supervision/security and earn 4 volunteer hours for each show, please call Mary Terrell - 404-636-9274, [meterrell@att.net](mailto:metterrell@att.net); or Sandy Mickle - (W) - 678-875-0521. We will have sign up sheets at the next PTSA meeting.

Ad Sales

**IMPORTANT IMPORTANT
IMPORTANT IMPORTANT
IMPORTANT**

Have you sold any ads, yet?

Don't forget that the first deadline is December 1, 2004. This is the best value. Your ad will be placed in both the dance concert and the spring musical programs.

The second deadline is January 15, 2005. Your ad will only be in the spring musical program.

If you have any problems, questions, or need any type of help, please let us know.

Don't forget that you can download extra forms, just go to the school web site.

<http://www.dekalb-arts.com>

Susan Conover kaldman@aol.com

Karen Gill karengill@aol.com

**Box
Office**
678-676-2552

Donations of Kleenex tissue, feminine products, first aid products (band-aides, cotton balls or gauze, anti-bacterial cream, calamine lotion, etc.) would be greatly appreciated!

WHY NOT YOU?



After the 1st two meetings this year, it is becoming more apparent, that most of you really don't care what happens at YOUR PTSA meetings. There is always a collection of the same faces, sitting in the same places at the meetings. Over the summer a study was made by DeKalb County, that 74% of Parents didn't care what went on in their School. I thought that figure was exaggerated, but by the attendance in our meetings, I am inclined to agree with them.

We have had a couple of outstanding meetings, with unbelievable performances by the Male Chorus, Our wonderful Orchestra, and a Medley by a versatile and upbeat jazz ensemble. In our last meeting we had a couple of visitors that brought an opportunity for possible revenue generating ideas to our membership. There is a feeling of unity and a Family type atmosphere that some of our most Veteran members say, it reminds them of the "GOOD OLD AVONDALE" days. I was not around then, but I would really love to see the "GOOD OLD DSA" days return. It is very embarrassing to invite people to our meetings, then have them witness a dismal, not even half-filled auditorium. We know how hard it is, after a hard day's work, fighting the pressures of a workday, traffic and God knows what else to take time to fight traffic again to attend these meetings, but why not you? In our previous newsletters, there was a strong emphasis placed on WE, but when you read this, this is strictly coming from me.

If this upsets you enough, maybe you will come to the meeting to chew me out in person, Why not you?

I wouldn't fuss, if I didn't care. But enough fussing for now, We did accomplish some very good things in our first quarter-- We made [Platinum Membership](#). We got the [Early Bird Award](#), and were recognized in the top 10 in the State. You guys are doing Great behind the scenes, but WE miss you so much and would just like to see your faces at YOUR meetings.

Thanks goes out to all the Volunteers who helped during this past testing week. We supplied breakfast for our students and they really express thanks for it. I know our test scores will show how important that was.

We are now moving into full gear in our AD SALES campaign, Thanks to those who are already working hard on this. Remember, this is our major Fundraiser and this will make or break our year, as well as our pocketbook.

Remember, meetings are mandatory.

I will be there,

WHY NOT YOU?

Thanks,
Ralph Robinson, PTSA CO-President - aka ICE





2415B North Druid Hills Rd
Atlanta, GA 30329

Phone:
(678) 676 - 2500

Fax:
(678) 676 - 2510

*An education for a
lifetime*

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.dekalb-arts.com

Important Dates**

November Citizenship Month

- 1, Mon Progress Reports
- 2, Tue Teacher Work Day - (no students)
- 3, Wed Test Prep - 8th Grade
- 4, Thr Parent Conferences (4:00-6:15pm)
PTSA Meetings (6:00 & 7:00 pm)
- 5, Fri SPA Meeting
- 6, Sat GHSA Region One-Act Play
GMEA District Honor Chorus
Scenery Saturday
Tech Week - Fall Mainstage
- 11, Thr FALL DRAMA @ 8:00 pm **
- 12, Fri FALL DRAMA @ 8:00 pm**
- 13, Sat FALL DRAMA @ 8:00 pm**
- 14, Sun FALL DRAMA, @ 2:00 pm**
- 15-19, M-F BHT Show Auditions
(4:00 - 7:00 pm)
- 20, Sat Junior Class Talent Show 8 pm **

- 23, Tue Early Release/Staff Development
- 24-28, Wed Holiday (Thanksgiving)
- 29-12/14, M-F End of Course Testing: Single Semester Courses Only

December Compassion Month

- 1-14, W-Tu End of Course Testing (cont.) :
Single Semester Courses Only
- 2, Thr PTSA Meetings (6 & 7:00 pm)
- 6-10, M-F Spring Musical Auditions
(4:00 - 7:00 pm)
- 14-17, Tu-F FINALS
- 18-1/2/05, Sat-Sun Winter Holidays

***please confirm as dates are
subject to change**

****Ticketed Events Box Office 678-676-2552**

DSA Parents and Students can now access the on-line school calendar! Go to www.dekalb-arts.com
Click on "Calendar" and select
"DSA WebEvent Calendar"

DSA-PTSA Board Meetings are held every first Thursday at 6:00 PM
General DSA-PTSA Meetings are held every first Thursday at 7:00 PM

DeKalb School of the Arts
2941 North Druid Hills Road
Atlanta, GA 30329



www.dekalb-arts.com

Next PTSA Meeting - 7:00 PM on November 4, 2004 at DSA



THE TIM REDOVIAN MEMORIAL FUND

www.timredovian.org

The Tim Redovain Memorial Fund

Fifth Annual

Night at the Theatre and Silent Auction

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Dessert Buffet and Auction 6:00 pm
Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol 7:30 pm

\$20.00

The Fifth Annual Night at the Theatre and Silent Auction will take place at the Georgia Ensemble Theatre, Tuesday November 16, 2004. The Dessert Bar (all you care to eat), coffee and tea (hot and iced) and Silent Auction will begin at 6:00 pm. The special benefit performance of Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol starts at 7:30 pm. Bidding will finish during intermission and the high bidders will pay after the play ends and take their items home. For more information or to make reservations, call (678) 488-6929. Someone will call you back! Please bring your friends. This year's event is going to be better than last year!



THE TIM REDOVIAN MEMORIAL FUND

www.timredovian.org

Dear Friend,

Donating just one item to the Tim Redovian Memorial Fund will make a difference in the life of a student of the arts. Since its inception in 1997, Tim's Fund has awarded \$58,000 in summer scholarships to performing arts students in the Dekalb County School System. Based on talent, academic performance, commitment to the arts and financial need, the forty scholarships have included programs at the nationally acclaimed Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in New York and Firespark! Brenau University in Georgia.

Business and personal donations are accepted in the form of volunteerism, financial and memorabilia and/or desserts for our Fifth Annual Night at the Theatre and Silent Auction. If you are able to support our efforts, please send the item to:

The Tim Redovain Memorial Fund, Inc.

5952 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Suite 15

Norcross, Ga. 30071

(678) 488-6929