



# Children First!

News & Information from Metro Nashville Public Schools

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## February 15, 2008

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### **Andrew Jackson Elementary Announces Annual Winterfest Celebration**

Mark your calendars! **Andrew Jackson Elementary School** staff and students invite the entire community to join them in celebration at the school's annual Winterfest Celebration.

To kick off the event, a chili supper is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 22 from 5-7 p.m. in the school's cafeteria. Also that evening from 5-8 p.m., classes will put on carnival-style games for the kids including face painting and prizes. Saturday, Feb. 23, a silent auction will be held in the library from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. featuring everything from class-sponsored themed baskets to a variety of items donated by local and national businesses. Saturday evening will be capped off with a live auction featuring Wendell Ethridge, auctioneer. You can bid on everything from tires, oil changes, and salon certificates to hotel stays, autographed memorabilia, theme park admissions and everything else in between.

Winterfest is an evening of family fun and allows the community to show support for Andrew Jackson Elementary. The funds raised by the PTO with Winterfest all go directly to the school and helps AJE maintain its "National School of Excellence" status.

AJE is located at 110 Shute Lane at the corner of Old Hickory Boulevard.

### **McGavock High School's AVID Program is on the Move**

Congratulations to **McGavock High** for nearly doubling the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) enrollment over the past year. Entering its second year of existence, the program has achieved the following:

- Increased enrollment from 65 to more than 120 students;
- More than 70% of the students have maintained a "B" GPA;
- Experienced an increase from 20% to more than 50% of all AVID students being involved in extracurricular activities;

- Implemented a computer lab equipped with 6 new Dell Computers and Internet access;
- Contributed to making McGavock High School a “college going” culture by featuring colleges of the month;
- Actively participated in school service projects and community service projects;
- Toured more than 14 colleges and universities;
- And, hosted more than 20 guest speakers on various topics.

AVID is a college-prep program targeting students who might not otherwise consider college as a viable option.

### **Stratford High: An Evening of Elegance**

Saturday, Feb. 23 at 6 p.m., **Stratford High School** will honor 43 beautiful young women at “An Evening of Elegance.” This Third Annual Cotillion is a black tie event. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Proceeds will help defray costs associated with hosting the event as well as provide college scholarships to winners in the scholarship aspect of the program.

The Cotillion is hosted by Ladies of Elegance, an organization designed to guide and nurture young ladies who have aspirations of being better individuals. There is no cost or grade stipulation for females to participate, and the organization is open to all Stratford High School females. The only requirements are that ladies come with a willing heart, a pleasing attitude and a desire to participate.

For tickets or additional information, please contact Gayle Merkerson at 242-6730 ext. 2012 or at [gayle.merkerson@mnps.org](mailto:gayle.merkerson@mnps.org).

### **J.T. Moore Teacher Selected for Fulbright-Hays Group**

Congratulations to John Trotwood Moore Social Studies teacher **Paul Beavers** for his selection to participate in the Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad Summer Seminar in China. Mr. Beavers will participate during the summer of 2008. This opportunity will enhance the school’s International Baccalaureate curriculum.

### **Bellevue Middle TSA Wins at Regional Competition**

Congratulations to students in the Technology Student Association at **Bellevue Middle School** for several big wins at the TSA Regional Competition in Fairview where they competed against five other middle schools.

Karthik Sastry took first place in the Prepared Speech category for his persuasive speech on using fluorescent light bulbs vs. incandescent bulbs to help prevent global warming. The Leadership Challenge event team of Jeff Podis, James Rim and Austin Dunlap also took first place. Dunlap, Preston Warfield and Payton Huffaker’s recycled VHS/DVD gizmo earned second place in the Manufacturing Challenge. In the Career Challenge Ashlee Coleman (Auto Mechanic) and Maria Chavez (Civil Engineer) took second and third places respectively. Coleman and Chavez also paired to compete in the Technology Challenge, winning third place.

This is the first year of TSA at Bellevue Middle; also the first year they participated in the competition. Club Sponsor and CTE instructor John Marshall hopes to add bridge building to his classes’ curriculum next year so that his students will be able to compete in the Structural Design Challenge as well. TSA State Competition will be held in Pigeon Forge March 31 – April 2.

### **Student Representatives Inducted to Metro School Board**

Tuesday, Feb. 12 at the regularly scheduled board meeting, two MNPS high school students were inducted to serve as student representatives. Brittany McShand of **Hillsboro High** and Sierra Scivally of **Whites Creek High** were sworn in and took their official seats. The students were elected by their peers and will serve the remainder of the school year. Congratulations to Ms. McShand and Ms. Scivally.

### **MNPS offers Summer Arts and Music Camps**

The Visual and Performing Arts Department of MNPS offers several camps for students. All camps are \$100. Summer 2008 camps include:

*Art al Sol* is a visual arts camp for students serious about developing their art skills.

The camps are divided by ages 8 – 10 and 10 – 13. Mature ten year olds can pursue the 10 – 13 year old sessions. MNPS visual arts teachers serve as camp instructors.

The camp sites and sessions are:

<b>Tulip Grove Session I</b>	<b>(8 – 10 year olds)</b>	<b>June 16 – 20</b>
<b>Tulip Grove Session II</b>	<b>(8 – 10 year olds)</b>	<b>June 23 – 27</b>
<b>West End MS Session I</b>	<b>(8 – 10 year olds)</b>	<b>June 16 – 20</b>
<b>West End MS Session II</b>	<b>(10 -13 year olds)</b>	<b>June 23 – 27</b>
<b>J. T. Moore MS Session I</b>	<b>(8 – 10 year olds)</b>	<b>June 16 – 20</b>
<b>J. T. Moore MS Session II</b>	<b>(10 – 13 year olds)</b>	<b>June 23 – 27</b>
<b>Donelson MS Session I</b>	<b>(10 – 13 year olds)</b>	<b>June 23 – 27</b>

*Arts in Action* is a camp that incorporates theatre, music, dance and visual arts. At the end of the nine day camp the students present a musical production and have an art show. For students worried that they can't dance, they will be shocked at how much fun they have learning with our dance instructors and how good they become. This camp is for ages 8 – 12. MNPS teachers serve as camp instructors. The camp sites and dates are:

<b>Hume-Fogg Academic Magnet HS</b>	<b>May 27 – June 6</b>
<b>Overton Comprehensive HS</b>	<b>May 27 – June 6</b>

*Band Camp* is for students that are presently in Grades 5 – 8. Students must have a minimum of one year of band prior to attending the camp. Instruction includes small group session of students on like instruments and full band rehearsals. There will be an end of camp concert for the students' families and friends. MNPS band directors serve as camp instructors. The camp site and dates are:

**Croft Middle Design Center June 9 - 19**

*Orchestra Camp* is for students presently in Grades 4 – 12, who play violin, viola, cello or double bass. The students must have a minimum one year of instruction in orchestra and be able to read music. The students are divided by age/experience levels for performance purposes. Students will take a couple of field trips to play in the community and will present an end of camp concert for their families and friends. MNPS orchestra teachers serve as instructors. The camp site and dates are:

**Nashville School of the Arts June 9 - 19**

### **Cumberland Elementary Gets Playground**

Thanks to Representative Gary Moore, **Cumberland Elementary** will soon be getting new playground equipment. The school was awarded a \$1500 check at a special assembly, in answer to a grant written by school principal, Renita Perkins. At the special assembly, students sang and then Rep. Moore praised to the students, encouraged them to keep working hard, and gave a small synopsis of what his job entails.

### **Treasures Around the World**

Friday, Feb. 22, **J.E. Moss** will transform into countries from around the globe at its annual International Fair, "Treasures Around the World." Each country or region showcased will represent areas from which J.E. Moss students and their families trace their heritage. Students, parents, and other visitors receive a "Passport" to visit the countries with authentic décor and artifacts donated by parents. Guests will enjoy a traveling fashion show in which students will don traditional dress from their country. Students and parents will complete their tour with a visit to the library where each student receives a free book of their choice. This is an event that teachers, parents, students, and community members look forward to all year long. J.E. Moss invites anyone who would love to visit foreign lands and craves adventure!

### **Community Career Center Offers Free Computer Classes**

During the months of March and April, parents of MNPS students can sign up for free adult computer-training classes through the **Community Career Center**. Classes currently offered include: Basic beginner and Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

In addition to the computer classes, MNPS parents can also attend self-esteem and workplace-readiness workshops free of charge. The classes will be offered at three Community Career Center locations: 302 Foster Street in East Nashville, 3900 Clifton Ave (near 40<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. and Charlotte Pike), and 601 Benton Ave. (near the fairgrounds). For more information about class offerings and schedules or to register for a class, visit [www.communitycareercenter.net](http://www.communitycareercenter.net) or call (615) 298-6752.

### **Nashville School of the Arts Tours Black History Dance Show**

**Nashville School of the Arts** is set to take their traveling Black History Dance Show around Metro Schools. Students will perform a variety of dances in celebration of Black History Month. Last year, the school performed for more than 20 different schools. This year they hope to double the number of performances.

### **Maplewood Students Bring Home the Gold, the Silver and the Bronze!**

Six **Maplewood High** students participated and placed in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Essay Contest sponsored by the Vanderbilt University Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center. The students who participated are: Ronald Barnes-11<sup>th</sup>; Selest Carter-11<sup>th</sup>; Shainnekqua Taylor- 11<sup>th</sup> Tahra Jonnson-10<sup>th</sup>; David Reedy- 10<sup>th</sup> and Jasmine Black- 9<sup>th</sup>. Shainnekqa Taylor won first place, received a plaque and \$150; Tahra Johnson won second place, received a plaque and \$100; and Ronald Barnes won third place, received a plaque and \$75. All participants also received a certificate and a \$15 gift card to Best Buy. Congratulations to each student.

**2008 Bridge Design/Build Competition**

**Martin Luther King Magnet School** will host the 2008 Bridge Design/Build Competition sponsored by the Nashville Branch of the American Society for Civil Engineers. The event combines two competitions, the West Point Bridge Design Contest and the International Bridge Design Contest. Winners of the competition will be recognized at the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers "All Engineers' Banquet" Friday, Feb. 22.