



Children First!

News & Information from Metro Nashville Public Schools

February 11, 2008

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Internet Safety Workshop for Parents

Monday, Feb. 11 parents in Davidson County can attend a free workshop on Internet Safety. The class will be held from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at **H.G.Hill Middle School**. The course, offered by the Community Career Center, is designed to teach parents about filtering and blocking software, instant message and text message literacy, proper computer placement within the home, popular personal networking sites and signs that a child may be in contact with an online predator. The workshops are funded in part by donations from the Harding Road Wal-mart and the Hamilton Church Road Wal-mart. For more information about all course dates and times, visit www.communitycareercenter.net or contact the Community Career Center at (615) 298-6752.

Pearl-Cohn Coach's Determination Pays Off As Players Sign for College

Pearl-Cohn head football coach Tony Brunetti is passionate about the game, but he knows college is the way to a successful future—and he is doing his part to make sure as many members of his team as possible have that opportunity. When not coaching, he spends hours contacting colleges and marketing his players—in fact, Coach Brunetti estimates he has sent more than 125 DVDs of his players in action to colleges throughout the country. His determination resulted in 13 of his players signing contracts to play college football on National Signing Day this past Wednesday, Feb. 6. A 14th is an invited walk-on. That was the most signings for any area school. Congratulations to these Pearl-Cohn football players and to Coach Brunetti for recognizing the importance of going to college and going that extra mile to get there.

Mayor's Town Hall Meeting

Monday, Feb. 11 the public is invited to attend the Mayor's Next Town Hall Meeting at **Maplewood High**. The session will begin at 6 p.m. Parents are encouraged to attend and share their ideas.

Neely's Bend Dedication

Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 10 a.m., there will be a dedication ceremony for the newly renovated **Neely's Bend Elementary**. Everyone's invited to celebrate the occasion with Principal Howard Henderson.

Board of Education Meets Tuesday; Plans Budget Public Hearing

Members of the Board of Public Education will meet at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12. At 6 p.m., the Board will conduct a public hearing on the 2008-2009 Operating Budget. Persons who wish to speak may sign up in advance by calling the Board Office at 259-8487. Sign-ups will also be accepted Feb. 12 from 4-5 p.m. in the Customer Service Center Lobby of the Central Administration Building. The district's Finance Committee will meet immediately following adjournment of the Board meeting.

Stratton Elementary Teacher Publishes a Children's Book

Congratulations to Connie Prince, Pre-K teacher at **Stratton Elementary**, for publishing the children's book, *Penny Pen's Last Day of School*. The book is intended for teachers to read to students Pre-K – 3rd grade, or for 3rd – 5th graders to read to themselves. The book is available at www.authorhouse.com.

Vanderbilt Scientist in the Classroom at Neely's Bend Middle

Debra Smith, seventh grade science teacher and IB Coordinator at **Neely's Bend Middle School**, along with Vanderbilt Scientist, Jason Rohner, are taking learning to a new level for students. Every Wednesday, Rohner serves as a teaching partner to Smith. Together, the two have truly peaked the interest of the students at Neely's Bend. Positive student feedback and increased class attendance are just two results of this innovative new teaching idea.

Smith is a dedicated teacher. Hands-on, cooperative groups, inclusion, and a variety of differentiated teaching techniques are applied in her room daily. Rohner is a Physics graduate student at Vanderbilt researching wound closure through microsurgical springback measurements. He is also considering a career in education after the completion of his doctoral degree.

J.T. Moore Students Take Million Bottle Challenge

Students at **John Trotwood Moore Middle School** participated in the 2007 *Million Bottle Challenge* as part of the *Earth's Birthday* project. JTM's Matadors contributed enough to purchase a portion of protected beach and territorial waters at Playa Grande in Costa Rica. This conservation effort protects leatherback sea turtles. Congratulations to these students for setting a high standard in caring for the environment.

Schools Recognized at National Title I Conference

Congratulations to the **Whites Creek** band for being selected to open the National Title I Conference at the Opryland Gaylord Hotel held Jan. 31. Also honored at the conference was Fall Hamilton, recent winners of a state award as a National Title I Distinguished School candidate.