



Children First!

News & Information from Metro Nashville Public Schools

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A Message from the Interim Director

Last week, MNPS received the results of our District Audit from the Appalachia Regional Comprehensive Center. The report shows us that while we have many strengths, we also have work to do to help our district reach its goal of students achieving at their highest potential.

We are treating this report as an opportunity to make a fresh start for improvement, and we take the contents of the report very seriously. Our staff is working diligently to take the recommendations and develop better practices within MNPS. Principals and staff will be asked for their input as we develop our strategies to implement the recommendations. I'm confident, that by working closely with school personnel, we can use this report to truly make this an exemplary school district.

Our staff has been working very hard, and we have seen great strides in our students' progress. However, it is difficult to truly celebrate our successes while we have many challenges to address. MNPS feels it important to continue to recognize and appreciate all of the hard work of our staff and students while we address these areas of needed improvement.

We realize that improvement will not be easy and will take efforts on behalf of our staff, our students, our parents and our community as a whole.

-Chris Henson, Interim Director

Ruby Major Students Remember Old Glory

Monday, March 17, at 10 a.m. a group of **Ruby Major** students will perform the *National Anthem* and *How Proud Are We* in a nationwide celebration, *Old Glory's Journey of*

Remembrance. The ceremony will be held at the National Cemetery on Gallatin Road in Madison.

This celebration is sponsored by the White House Commission on Remembrance and has two goals: involving school children and teaching them about the meaning of Memorial Day. Flag ceremonies will be held on a series of 23 Mondays at battlefields, memorials and national cemeteries across the United States. The remembrance ceremony first began when a flag flew first on December 7, 2007 on the USS Arizona in Pear Harbor, Hawaii. The journey will end in Washington, D.C. Memorial Day, May 26, 2008.

Glenclyff Partnership Offers Excellence for Students

Feb. 29, **Glenclyff High School** participated in “Read Across America Week” with **Glenclyff Elementary**. The Glenclyff Ladies of Excellence (G.L.O.E. Club) volunteered by reading Dr. Seuss books to 2nd graders at the elementary. Both groups had a wonderful time, and the event has resulted in a new partnership of service among the two neighboring schools. The G.L.O.E. Club plans to return to the elementary school for another day of reading and also to assist with Field Day. The club sponsors are Celia Conley and Deanna McMillan.

MNPS Middle School Science Fair Winners

Congratulations to all **MNPS Middle School Science Fair** winners (a complete list is posted at <http://www.mnps.org/Page34214.aspx>). The Science Fair was held Saturday, March 1, at Martin Luther King Magnet School. There were 642 projects from 11 middle schools registered, including: Antioch, Bass, Croft, DuPont Hadley, Head, McKissack, Meigs, MLK, Moore, Rose Park and West End.

MNPS would like to extend a special thank you to all of the community sponsors and Nashville Gas, who provided funding for trophies and ribbons as well as prizes for projects in the Energy and Environmental categories. Science Fair judges included representatives from Adventure Science Center, Fisk University, Lipscomb University, Middle Tennessee State University and Tennessee State University.

Hillsboro Teacher Honored

Congratulations to Christian Sawyer, M.Ed, AP European History, AP Human Geography, and US History teacher at **Hillsboro High**, for the recent publishing of his AP Human Geography book, which is now available in stores. Sawyer has also been appointed to Chair the National Council for the Social Studies National Teacher of the Year Program for secondary educators across the country. Sawyer was also selected as the National Secondary Social Studies Teacher of the Year in 2006.

Glenclyff Student to Appear on Sports Line with Hope Hines

Congratulations to Alicia Hill, a student at **Glenclyff High**, who has been invited to appear on SportsLine with Hope Hines, Tuesday, March 4, from 8 -8:30 p.m. The show airs on NewsChannel 5+, Cable Channel 50, Monday – Wednesday 8 – 9 p.m. Encore presentations are shown Monday – Thursday at 4:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Alicia is involved in several activities at Glenclyff High School, including: she is a member of Glenclyff Ladies of Excellence; Special Olympics Buddy Club; peer tutoring; National Honor Society; she is a Glenclyff Ambassador; manager of the Volleyball, Football and Basketball

Teams; HON Volunteer; Star Leader; and the Student Government Association Secretary. In addition, she has been nominated for the Citizenship Award and also participates in ACT prep classes. Her involvement with various sports programs is the reason she has been elected to appear on Hope Hines' Sports Show and asked to serve as part of the OVC Challenge to promote sportsmanship in athletics.

Gateway Elementary Receives Grant

Gateway Elementary received a \$2,000 Community Enhancement Grant from the State of Tennessee on behalf of State Senators Moore and Haynes. The funds can be used for programs, services, operating costs, equipment, construction, renovation or maintenance. Gateway and MNPS would like to extend a special thank you to Senator Haynes and Senator Moore for their generosity and support of the school.

West End Middle Hosts a "Concert of Hope"

West End Middle School will host a "Concert of Hope," Tuesday, March 11, at 7 p.m. The "Concert of Hope" is a community and service concert for the Watoto African Children's Choir from Uganda. The event is open to the public.

The Watoto children are among 1.8 million boys and girls in Uganda who have had the tragic experience of losing one or both parents to AIDS, poverty or war. The "Concert of Hope" is designed to generate financial support for the Watoto children. While the concert is free, donations for the Watoto children will be taken at the door. Please RSVP no later than March 10, 2008 at rose.harris@mnps.org.

Antioch High Debaters Excel

Congratulations to **Antioch High's Debate Team** after an excellent showing at the Nationals Qualifying Debate the weekend of March 1. The team of Corey Pitts and Jonathan Kinnard are the second alternates to Nationals. DeAntwaine Moye was invited to speak at the Nashville Alliance Dinner and Induction Ceremony held Tuesday, March 4.

Crieve Hall Announces Annual Kite Day

Crieve Hall will hold its annual Kite Day to celebrate spring Friday, April 4. Parents are invited to come to school and fly kites with their children during their related arts time. It's a beautiful sight to see kites fill the skies around Crieve Hall. Last year around 70 parents enjoyed the Crieve Hall Rite of Spring celebration, with kites in every category – butterflies, triangles to intricate detailed kites.

Haywood Elementary Honors First Principal

Thursday, April 24, from 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., there will be a celebration at **Haywood Elementary** honoring Haywood's first principal, Evelyn Hyde-Bennett. At the ceremony, the school library will be dedicated to Mrs. Hyde-Bennett and renamed in her honor. Haywood Elementary would like to invite anyone who was a student or employee during her stint as principal at Haywood (from 1959-1988).

Whites Creek Students Participated in UNITOWN Leadership Retreat

A group of 58 **Whites Creek High** students participated in the UNITOWN Leadership Retreat sponsored by Community Nashville Thursday Feb. 28 - Saturday March 1. The retreat exposed the students to an intense human relations experience, self esteem building and leadership

education in a non-classroom environment. It is intended to engage youth in purposeful, goal-directed dialogue to increase their awareness of the development of attitudes and behaviors that contribute to bias, bigotry, prejudice, discrimination and racism. The students who participated in the UNITOWN retreat will become leaders at Whites Creek and help foster improved school culture through activities with faculty, staff and students. For more information on Community Nashville's programs, please contact Anthony Johnson at 327-1755.

National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame Recognizes Scholar Athletes

Tuesday, March 4, at the Millennial Maxwell House, several MNPS students were recognized as **Charles W. Hawkins III High School Scholar-Athlete Winners**. The students honored are: Kent E. Aigbe, Antioch High; Mario Pennington, Glenclyff High; Demetrous Garrett, Hillsboro High; Wesley Terrell Jackson, Jr., Hillwood High; Randall C. Lewis, Jr., Hunters Lane High; Lester Lee Blanton, Jr., Maplewood High; Matthew Allen Hinson, McGavock High; Keith Matthew Herndon, Overton High; DeAunte Mason, Pearl-Cohn High; Stevie Shelton, Stratford High; and Tyler Lamont Allen, Whites Creek High. Each scholar-athlete will receive a \$500 scholarship from the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame. Also at the ceremony, Hunters Lane JROTC Color Guard presented the Colors. Congratulations to each school and each student.

Quilts, Books and Family Warm Our Hearts

Family Reading Night was held, Thursday, February 28, at **Goodlettsville Elementary School**. Approximately 125 people, parents, students and faculty, came out for an evening of "warmth."

The night was initially intended to serve as an arts integration unit for ArtSmart trained Kindergarten and 1st grade teachers, but turned into a very special event. A special thank you goes out to the PTO for providing hot chocolate and popcorn; Library Specialist Carol Burr for opening the GES library for special readers to share great books; guest readers: Mr. Schroeder, Mr. Frey, Mrs. Gabriel, Mrs. Potts, and Mrs. Ferguson who is the mother of Ms. Battenfield, GES student teacher. Mrs. Ferguson recently lost her home and all her quilts to the February tornados; GES greatly appreciates her and her contribution to the night.

A special thanks are also in order for Arts Specialist Dr. Winningham who planned and worked with Kindergarten and 1st grade students to teach them about the art of quilt making. The "quilt museum" was a huge success. Several GES faculty and staff members shared their own personal quilts, pictures and memories. As a result, kindergarten and 1st grade class quilts will be showcased in the hallway for an unspecified amount of time. The public is invited to visit GES and appreciate all the "warmth" of memories that each quilt portrays.

Finally, a special congratulation is in order for Rachel Frey for the closest guess at how many books are in the school library. Her guess was 7,001, while the correct total was 7,397.

Glenclyff Cosmetology Students Get Hands On Experience

Students in the **Glenclyff High Cosmetology Program** are getting hands on experience and helping the community. The students made a special visit to Radnor Towers this past Valentine's Day, offering free manicures and pedicures to residents as part of a service project. Residents were so pleased with the visit; they asked to become paying customers of the cosmetology students. The residents will travel to Glenclyff High, Wednesday, March 12, to again receive manicures and pedicures.