



Children First!

News & Information from Metro Nashville Public Schools

April 4, 2008

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TCAP Testing This Week

Tuesday, April 8, MNPS students will begin TCAP testing. These tests will be given April 8, 9, 10, 14 and 15. It is imperative that all students not only participate in these tests, but give their best effort. The results of our statewide testing give teachers and administrators a direct indicator as to how well our students are learning academic standards. Please support your child to do his or her very best by ensuring he or she is in school and on time. Please make sure your child gets plenty of rest and has a good nutritional breakfast each morning.

MNPS 2nd in the Nation for Graduation Rates

With a 77% graduation rate for the 2003-2004 school year, MNPS ranked 2nd among the nation's 50 largest cities. The report, conducted by the Editorial Projects in Education Research Center for the America's Promise Alliance, uses the cumulative promotion index to measure graduation rates and make comparisons among school districts. If you would like to see the complete report, visit <http://www.edweek.org/media/swansoncitiesin crisis040108.pdf>.

MNPS Budget Goes to Council

MNPS 2008-2009 budget has been approved by the Metro School Board and Nashville Mayor Karl Dean. The Mayor's proposed budget will now be reviewed by Metro Council, with the Public Education budget review scheduled for Monday, April 7. The council must make any possible changes and vote to approve it the budget by the end of June. If the budget is not

approved by the end of June, the Mayor's proposed budget takes effect July 1. For a complete schedule of the Metro Council budget hearings visit http://www.nashville.gov/council/budget_hearings_2008.htm.

Summer Swim Camps Interns Needed

MNPS and Community Aquatics will hold two informational meetings, Monday, April 7 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. and Thursday April 10, from 6 – 8 p.m. for students ages 12-15 who are interested in the Summer Swim Camp Counselor in Training program. The meetings will be held at Glenclyff High, Pearl-Cohn and Whites Creek High. The program is a summer internship that could eventually lead students to summer jobs as swim camp counselors. For more information, visit www.mnps.org >> parents and community >> aquatics - swimming >> New Aquatics Summer Day Camp. Scroll down to the bright green box for details and a registration form for the Counselor in Training program.

Martha Vaught's Taste of Chicago

March 25, the MWAH Performing Arts Troupe (acronym for Messages Which Are Hopeful) performed for **Martha Vaught Patriots** as a kick off for TCAP Success for Life. The troupe members range in age from 8 to 21 and live in the Chicago area. The troupe addressed several issues which are pertinent for students and used music to convey their messages of hope. The central theme was focused on the importance of cultural, racial and religious diversity in a person's daily life and the value all individuals represent. The issues-oriented and audience-interactive performance used a combination of drama along with music to focus on what is hopeful and good in true life situations.

MLK Represented in the Chinese Bridge US High School Student Speech Contest

Congratulations to **MLK** students, Jacqueline Husin and Lendsey Thicklin, who participated in the Third Chinese Bridge US High School Student Speech Contest. The students were required to write about any topics related to Chinese learning or culture and to record their speech in Chinese. After the review process, Lendsey was selected by a panel of judges to compete in the final speech contest with other students from around the nation. She will give a live speaking presentation to a panel of judges Saturday, April 19, at the nation-wide competition in Boston. She will also have to answer questions in Chinese from the judges. This contest is sponsored by Hanban and the Confucious Institute at the University of Massachusetts.

J.T. Moore Chess Team State Champions

J.T. Moore's Chess Team defeated Meigs Magnet in the final round of the State Championship Saturday, March 29, at Tennessee Technological University. Taking the first place trophy for the Junior High Division were Moore players Ivan and Pavel Velkovsky, Shane Franklin, Gene Li and James Wu. Congratulations to both schools for their successes this year.

MNPS Alum March into Madness

Congratulations to MNPS alum, Felecia Grinter, who refereed the NCAA Women's Tournament game between Connecticut and Rutgers Tuesday, April 1. Grinter graduated from Glenclyff High in 1987. She played on the state championship volleyball team, was named All-Nashville in basketball and named All-Nashville in softball.

Also, a special congratulation is in order for Jessica Mooney, graduate of Hillsboro High, who helped take the Lady Commodores to the Sweet 16.

Harris Hillman's Very Special Arts Festival

Harris Hillman's Very Special Arts Festival is Thursday, April 17, from 9:30-11:00 at Harris Hillman. The Very Special Arts Festival will include a student art exhibit, musical performance, hands-on art activities and a reception.

Harris-Hillman serves students with severe and multiple disabilities. This event will celebrate the accomplishments of the students and promote increased access to the arts for people with disabilities. The school is located at the intersection of 26th Ave. South and Blakemore, directly across from Vanderbilt Hospital. Harris Hillman staff would like to extend a special thank you to the festival sponsors, A Very Special Arts Tennessee and the Green Hills Civitan Club.

Gra-Mar Student to Study at Emory

Congratulations to Wayne Williams, a 7th grade student at Gra-Mar Middle School. He was chosen from our school to attend the Summer Institute for the Gifted (SIG) at Emory University. Thanks to a Renaissance Learning scholarship, Wayne will spend three weeks studying challenging academic courses along with experiencing fascinating social, cultural and recreational activities. Students at the institute will do everything from building a model rocket to learning the art of graphic design. Wayne is one of just 25 students selected for the scholarship.

An Exciting Month at Glendale

Tuesday, April 1, famous storyteller Donald Davis, held a special inservice with Glendale teachers. The focus of the inservice was storytelling and writing for the elementary student. Mr. Davis performed for the students Wednesday and Thursday, April 2 and 3. Mr. Davis is an international storyteller and one for the founders of the International StoryTelling Festival in Jonesboro, TN.

Saturday, April 5, Glendale's PTO will sponsor the "Glendale Gala," at the Cumberland Science Museum. There will be dinner with a silent auction. There are tickets left, please contact 279-7970 if you would like to attend. All proceeds will go to Glendale Spanish Immersion.

And finally, the "Nashville Children's Choir," will perform Thursday, April 24, at 8:30 a.m. for the Glendale students.

McGavock High Student Council Honored

Congratulations to the **McGavock High School Student Council** for winning the Four Star Council Award and the Platinum Award at the Tennessee Association of Student Councils Convention hosted by Halls High School in Halls, TN. The council placed second in the state in scrapbook competition. Erika Tierce won first place in the Senior High Essay, and Eric Taft won second place in the Senior High Speech contest.

Individual awards were as follows:

All-Star: Heather Finchum, Miranda Jackson, Jasmine Pollard, Amy Stickel and Erika Tierce.

Legacy: Bianca Lewis

Member of the Year: Bianca Lewis

Above and Beyond: Erika Tierce

The team is currently sponsored by Paula Barkley, but will fall under the guidance of Sara Brunette in the 2008-2009 school year.

Tom Joy's Reading Road Trip

The students at **Tom Joy Elementary School** recently enjoyed a Reading Road Trip Book Fair wherein they purchased new books for their classrooms and home libraries, learned about Route 66 and enjoyed 'sinkers and suds' with their mothers (that means 'donuts and coffee' in diner lingo). Tom Joy's Pencil Partners and some anonymous friends made generous donations enabling teachers and students to purchase books at the Book Fair. The faculty and staff at Tom Joy would like to express gratitude to Pinnacle Financial Partners, The Book Attic in Madison and the Insurers of Nashville for donating money and/or sending guest readers to celebrate this exciting reading event.

Martha Vaught Teacher Thinks Outside the Box

Jeffrey Scott, science teacher at Martha Vaught Middle School, is thinking outside the box to keep his students up to par. Realizing that teaching in today's classroom has many demands, Mr. Scott recognized that one of his students' greatest needs is relearning information missed in the classroom. Scott has begun pod casting and video casting his classes for students to view when they have been absent or if they need additional review.

"Projectscicast.com has given my students the ability to empower themselves in the learning process," Scott explains. "From the Small Wonder video camera to video tape my experiments to the NOVA hand held computer to play my videos, students have been able to make up numerous assignments at home, in the library and in ISS. The pod casts allow students to revisit topics that weren't clearly understood or to relearn information."

Check out Mr. Scott's video casts at www.projectscicast.com/.

Sylvan Park Paideia Design Center Raises Money for YWCA

Sylvan Park Paideia Design Center set out to help the YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter, and the school did just that. Students raised approximately \$1,500 in items and made books for the shelter. All items were presented in a special ceremony Wednesday, April 3 at the school. The project is the culmination of a school-wide Paideia project on Folk Tales, Fairy Tales & Fables.

Dell Free Computer Recycling Event

Dell Computers will hold a free computer recycling event for all residents of the Nashville and Middle Tennessee area. The event will be held Saturday, April 12, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. It will be held on Dell's Nashville Campus, located at One Dell Parkway, near the intersection of Donelson Pike and Murfreesboro Rd. If you would like to volunteer to assist with the event, call 862-8418.

School Zone Information

All school zones for the 2008-09 school year are now available on the MNPS website. Included in this information are the new zones established as a result of the rezoning plan approved by the

Board of Education in December, including Cane Ridge High School. When searching for the school zone of a specific address, you must now click on the school year for which you are searching, either 2007-08 or 2008-09. A printout of valid addresses will be mailed to each elementary school before kindergarten registration begins April 21.

Granbery Students Train for Music City Marathon

Granbery Elementary students are training with Team Rio, a group sponsored by country group Diamond Rio, to participate in the Country Music Marathon. The students have been running one mile at a time to log a total of 26 miles. The students have been raising money through sponsorships. When they are finished with the training, all the money raised will go to the Boys and Girls Clubs.

Mayor's Art Show

The Mayor's Art Show is currently open, running April 3 – 17, at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts. The public is invited to enjoy student exhibits from six MNPS high schools: Antioch, Glenciff, Hillsboro, Hunter's Lane, Pearl-Cohn and Stratford. The exhibit will be in the upper level education corridor.

A second art show is scheduled for April 24 – May 8 and will feature the work of students from Hillwood, Maplewood, McGavock, Overton and Whites Creek.

The Mayor's Art Show was first initiated during former Mayor Phil Bredesen's term in the 1990's. The show creates an opportunity to recognize the artistic accomplishments of all Metro Nashville Public School students. The Frist Center began hosting the exhibit in 2004, during former Mayor Bill Purcell's term and is continuing the tradition with Mayor Karl Dean.

Hillwood Culinary Arts Award

Hillwood High recently placed 3rd at the STAR events Culinary Arts competition. The following students represented Hillwood H.S. FCCLA chapter: Amanda Buckner, Darlene Guerrier and Jeffrey Taylor. Among a group of 13 teams from across the state of Tennessee, these students placed 3rd in the state, won a silver medal and \$2,500 a piece in college scholarships. Congratulations to the team and their teacher Mrs. Karen Sparks.

MNPS Clean Sweep at Middle School Forensics Tournament

At a recent Middle School Forensics tournament held at Meigs, MNPS finished in the top three places, beating out private schools including Harpeth Hall, Brentwood Academy and others. Congratulations to Ewing Park Middle School for placing 1st, I.T. Creswell Arts Magnet for taking 2nd place and Meigs Middle Magnet for claiming 3rd place.