



Children First!

News & Information from Metro Nashville Public Schools

April 18, 2008

In this edition: Haywood Elementary Honors Evelyn Hyde-Bennett
Mayor's Art Show, Second Section
International Day at Hillsboro High
Hillwood Offers a Helping Hand to Martha Vaught
Stratford Student Wins 2008 Full Moon Film Festival
Fall-Hamilton Presents Annie, Jr.
J.T. Moore 7th Graders Identified in Duke TIP Program
McGavock Show Choirs Take Top Prize
Sam Frey Kid Witness News Team Wins 3rd Year in a Row
Goodlettsville Elementary Participates in the Music City Marathon's Kid Marathon
Goodlettsville Elementary Melody Makers Year End Concert
Sales Tax Holiday Coming Soon
Stratford Couple Honored with a Strobel Award
Metro Action Gears up to Provide Free Meals to Summer Youth Programs
MNPS Names Teachers of the Year and Principals of the Year
Middle College High Information Night
J.T. Moore and Head Magnet Compete In Math Problem Solving Competition
2nd Graders at Dan Mills Poised and Praised
Una Elementary "Moms and Muffins" Sale
Goodlettsville Elementary Kindergartners are Thinking Green
MNPS Parents Advisory Council Elections
Long Time Pearl-Cohn Volunteer Recognized
Author visits Charlotte Park Elementary School

Haywood Elementary Honors First Principal, Evelyn Hyde-Bennett

Thursday, April 24, from 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., Evelyn Hyde-Bennett, the first principal of **Haywood Elementary**, will be honored at a special ceremony recognizing her outstanding work. Haywood's library will be renamed in honor of Mrs. Hyde-Bennett. She served as principal from 1959-1988. Those who either attended Haywood or worked at Haywood during Mrs. Hyde-Bennett's term are invited to attend. Please **RSVP** to Natalie Martin at 333-5118 ext: 265 or Natalie.Martin@mnps.org.

Mayor's Art Show

Several MNPS high school art departments will be showcased at the second session of the **Mayor's Art Show**, Thursday, April 24, from 5 – 7 p.m. The exhibit will feature students from Hillwood, Maplewood, McGavock, Overton and Whites Creek. The art show will be held at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts.

International Day at Hillsboro High School

Friday, April 18, **Hillsboro High School** will celebrate International Day, a Hillsboro tradition. To celebrate the rich sense of international and regional diversity within Hillsboro's student body, Hillsboro faculty and students will spend Friday participating in celebrations of nearly 35 different national cultures, all represented within Hillsboro's international student body. Student

teams have designed display booths with food and cultural artifacts, dance and choral presentations and a fashion show displaying myriad international cultures. Hillsboro's International Day is nearly entirely student driven and designed, a testament to the leadership talent and sense of global awareness within Hillsboro's student body.

Hillwood High Offers a Helping Hand to Feeder School

Hillwood High School offers a helping hand to Martha Vaught, one of Hillwood's feeder schools, during TCAP testing. Hats off to Mary Hinton, Hillwood's math department chair, and Leslie Thompson, math teacher at Martha Vaught, for seeing a need and fulfilling it. Because of the TCAP schedule and the need to have TI-84 calculators for students in the 8th grade, Ms. Hinton loaned Mrs. Thompson and the students at Martha Vaught 55 TI-84 calculators. This allowed all students to take the test at the same time in 7/8 Math. This single act of kindness not only helped the students at Martha Vaught, it also displayed a lot of trust and support in Martha Vaught teachers.

Stratford student wins 2008 Full Moon Film Festival

Emily Thomason, a sophomore at **Stratford High School**, recently won the 2008 Full Moon Film Festival with her film, *A New Depression*. Thomason's film studies the conditions at Stratford in light of the current economic situation in the United States. She used American history as a backdrop to wonder if the great depression could happen again. *A New Depression*, will be featured at the Nashville Film Festival as a part of the Young Filmmakers Showcase Saturday, April 19, at 11 a.m. Thomason was assisted in her production by Holden Patterson, a Stratford freshman, who was responsible for the cinematography in the film.

Billy Woodard, a Stratford junior, and Juan Garcia, a Stratford senior, also entered films in the competition. Woodard's film won best Experiential Film and was a real crowd pleaser. Garcia's film took a powerful look at the state of Hispanic immigration in America.

Congratulations to all these Spartans for the excellent work in film and cinematography.

Fall-Hamilton Presents *Annie, Jr.*

Fall-Hamilton Enhanced Option School will present the musical *Annie, Jr.* Friday, May 2, and Saturday, May 3, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 4, at 3 p.m. Admission is free and all are invited to attend. All the actors are Fall-Hamilton students in grades 1-4.

J.T. Moore 7th Graders Identified in Duke TIP Program

Six **J.T. Moore** 7th graders participated in Duke University's Talent Identification Program this year. Duke's Talent Identification Program bases recognition on performance of 7th grade students on college admissions tests, namely the SAT or ACT. The pool of students who enter TIP is very selective as only the highest achieving students are nominated.

Of the six J.T. Moore students, four qualified for state level recognition by scoring in the top 30% of the talent search pool, and two of those qualified for Grand recognition by scoring in the top 2% of the participants. JTM and MNPS congratulate the proud students and their families.

McGavock Show Choirs Take Top Prize

The **McGavock High School** choral department is proud to announce that its show choirs, Capital Sounds and McGavock Ladies, competed the weekend of April 7 in the National Freedom Fest held at the College of Staten Island in New York City. Both choirs received 1st place trophies in their prospective categories, and Capital sounds received a gold medal of achievement. Congratulations to all students and department instructors involved.

Jere Baxter Kid Witness News Team Wins 3rd Year in a Row

Jere Baxter Middle School's Kid Witness News Team has won awards in the Panasonic New Vision Awards Video Contest for the third year in a row. This year the group won two awards, the Public Service Announcement (PSA) Award and the Technical Award for Sound, for the video "Reading: The Prescription for Communication." This video is a light-hearted parody of all of the drug commercials that you see on TV, but promotes the many benefits of reading.

Panasonic has set up space on their website where you can vote for your favorite video. Click on the link below; then click on the various videos listed. Voting is available after you watch a video. (The JBMS video is on the far right.) <http://www.panasonic.com/MECA/kwn/view.html>.

Congratulations to all students and teachers involved in the Kid Witness News Team.

Goodlettsville Elementary Participates in the Music City Marathon's Kid Marathon

Approximately 30 **Goodlettsville Elementary School** students will be participating in the Music City Marathon's Kid Marathon Friday, April 25. This is a culminating event for the Mighty Milers who have been racking up miles throughout the school year as part of the New York Road Runner's Mighty Milers program. Goodlettsville Elementary 4th grade students have run an astounding 7,000 miles this year under the leadership of teacher Jeannine Renfro. This hard working group of student runners was recently highlighted in the running club's newsletter as well as the website.

Goodlettsville Elementary Melody Makers Year End Concert

The Melody Makers of **Goodlettsville Elementary** will present their year end concert, Thursday, April 24, at 6:30 p.m. Music Specialist Cathy Graham leads this group of talented fourth graders throughout the year as they perform for Pencil Partners, the local nursing home and their fellow students.

Sales Tax Holiday Coming Soon

The weekend of April 25 – 27, you can take advantage of the **Spring Sales Tax Holiday**. Tax exempt items are:

- School and school art supplies with a price of \$100 or less per item;
- Clothing with a price of \$100 or less per item; and
- Computers with a price of \$1,500 or less.

An important note for parents: standard school attire will be back during the 2008-2009 school year. This Spring Tax Holiday will be a great opportunity for parents to purchase clothes for next school year and save money.

For more information about the Spring Sales Tax Holiday, visit www.tntaxholiday.com. This website lists exempt items, a retailer's guide and frequently asked questions.

Shayne Elementary Recycling Club

The **Shayne Elementary Recycling Club** will present an Earth Day assembly to the school, Tuesday, April 22. The 4th grade students wrote and organized the presentation, which will include skits, posters, a question/answer section and a song. At the end of the program, the recycling team will present a plan to involve all grades in preventing pollution at Shayne.

Stratford Couple Honored with a Strobel Award

Congratulations to Jim Weber and Melony Pugh-Weber who won the 2008 Volunteer Innovator of the Year Award (a prestigious Strobel Award) for their work with CiViL Groups at **Stratford High School**. The CiViL Groups program was started by the Webers in 2004 to address high school retention through small group meetings focused on emotional intelligence and character education. Since the Webers began working with Stratford High School, the graduation rate has gone from 38 percent in 2004 to 74 percent in 2007. Last year, the students in the group actually won the Strobel Award for Volunteer Group of the Year.

The Mary Catherine Strobel Volunteer Awards is a program of Hands on Nashville. They seek to recognize local individuals and groups who selflessly give their time and talent to improve the community and residents' lifestyles. The Strobel Awards are in memory of Mary Catherine Strobel, a community volunteer known for her generosity and compassion.

Also, congratulations to the **McGavock High School Life Skills Class** for being named a finalist in the 2008 Strobel Award for Volunteer Innovators for its work with LP PENCIL Box, a store funded by PENCIL Foundation and LP Corporation that provides free school supplies to Metro Nashville Public School teachers for impoverished students. Many groups are nominated, and earning a spot as a finalist speaks volumes about the program and the work these students are doing.

Metro Action Gears up to Provide Free Meals to Summer Youth Programs

The Metropolitan Action Commission (MAC) is accepting applications for the 2008 Summer Food Service Program for Davidson County. These sites will be responsible for serving breakfast and lunch to any child, up to age 18 years, beginning June 2 through July 25, 2008.

Local organizations such as churches, community groups, summer school programs, summer camps or any other group that will serve children for any length of time during the summer are encouraged to submit an application. This program allows summer programs to provide free meals to young people as well as the surrounding community, which offsets the overall operating cost of their program. Youth may go to any site and receive free breakfast and/or lunch throughout the summer. Last year, the Summer Food Service Program supplied 173,000 lunches and 48,000 breakfast meals.

Organizations can submit their applications in person or by U.S. Postal Service to the Metro Action office, located at 1624 5th Avenue, North. Applicants may also call 615-862-8860, Extension 131.

MNPS Names Teachers of the Year and Principals of the Year

Three Metropolitan Nashville Public School teachers have been named Teacher of the Year in the annual Teacher of the Year awards program, which seeks to recognize teachers from each school who have been selected by their peers as among the best. The winners are: **Melissa Brock**, Elementary School Teacher of the Year, Literacy Leader at Kirkpatrick Elementary; **Amy K. Cate**, Middle School Teacher of the Year, Spanish/IB Coordinator at J.T. Moore Middle; and **Wanda Anglin**, High School Teacher of the Year, Government, U.S. History, Psychology and A. American Studies teacher at Nashville School of the Arts.

Also congratulations to three outstanding school leaders for being named Principal of the Year. This year, the recipients are: **Sandra Moorman**, Elementary Principal of the Year, Fall-Hamilton Elementary; **Amy Downey**, Middle School Principal of the Year, DuPont-Hadley; and **Clay Myers**, High School Principal of the Year, Hunters Lane. These principals were nominated and voted on by other principals in the district.

Middle College High Information Night

Thursday, April 24, at 6 p.m., students interested in learning more about **MNPS Middle College High School** are invited to attend an information meeting in Nashville State's Clement Auditorium.

Academically and financially, Middle College High offers Metro students and their families an excellent choice for “early college and early success.” Middle College gives students the opportunity to earn college credit hours at NSCC while completing the requirements for a high school diploma. Students can earn an associate’s degree while working toward high school graduation. That’s equivalent to two years of college completed -- before a student completes high school. Middle College High is ideal for the motivated high school student in the 10th, 11th or 12th grade who has the potential for academic success and the maturity to attend class on a college campus. To learn more, or complete an online application, visit www.mchs.mnps.org.

J.T. Moore and Head Magnet Compete In Math Problem Solving Competition

Two Metro Schools, **J.T. Moore Middle and Head Magnet**, recently participated at the Akiwa Invitational Math Problem Solving Competition. J.T. Moore student Jackson Ferrell placed third in the overall competition. Congratulations to Jackson and his teammates Matt Porter, Ryan Dunaway, Kelly Severino, Savannah Patton and Mary Sauve as well as the students from Head Magnet.

2nd Graders at Dan Mills Poised and Praised

On a recent field trip to downtown Nashville, the 2nd graders and their teachers at Dan Mills Elementary received the highest praises from their tour guide. In a letter to Dan Mills Principal, Ms. Patti Yon, the guide wrote of how touched she was by the group’s attentiveness, knowledge and interest. According to the guide, “They (the students) were so attentive, asked brilliant questions and were just a source of bright, shiny, joyfulness in my day. I won’t be forgetting soon how special this group from Dan Mills was today.” On behalf of MNPS, congratulations and thank you to the 2nd graders and their teachers at Dan Mills.

Una Elementary “Moms and Muffins” Sale

Una Elementary will hold "Moms and Muffins" sale Friday, April 25, at 8:30 a.m. The featured speaker will be current Warner Principal Lori Fleming, who is a former Una teacher and reading specialist.

Goodlettsville Elementary Kindergartners are Thinking Green

Goodlettsville Elementary School kindergarten students are thinking green for Earth Day. The students will be decorating brown paper bags, donated by the Goodlettsville Publix Grocery, which will be returned to Publix and given to customers in celebration of Earth Day, Tuesday, April 22.

MNPS Parents Advisory Council Elections

MNPS Parents Advisory Council (PAC) elected Richard Tennant as chairman for the upcoming 2008-09 school year during its monthly meeting held Thursday, April 17. The PAC, a collaborative group of parents elected from PTO, PTA, PTSA and Cluster Parent Groups (CPG) from across the district, meets monthly with the director of schools and other district officials to discuss issues specific to their clusters.

Kathy Nevill, 2007-08 PAC Chairman, and former MNPS board member representing the McGavock Cluster, passed the torch to Tennant who will begin his year long tenure in June. Tennant, who represents the Stratford Cluster, served as the 07-08 PAC vice chairman. By vocation, Tennant is a criminal lawyer who specializes in juvenile cases. He will bring a special sensitivity to children's needs, as well as a collaborative, facilitative skill for delegating tasks to the group. The new 2008-09 PAC vice chairman is David Kern from the Magnet School Cluster. The Council's leadership will be rounded out by adding Karen Hensley, from the Overton Cluster, as secretary to the organization.

Long Time Pearl-Cohn Volunteer Recognized

Tuesday, April 15, a long time volunteer at Pearl-Cohn High was recognized and honored at a special, surprise ceremony. Calvin Peters is the director of the *I Have a Future Program*, an after school program that addresses health and social issues affecting at-risk youths. Currently, the I Have A Future Program has more than 250 active members. For the past 16 years, the program has sponsored a fashion show as its major fundraiser in which the proceeds are used to fund a tour in late May to historically black colleges and universities. This year, the group will be visiting schools in Virginia and Washington, D.C.

Author visits Charlotte Park Elementary School

The students at Charlotte Park are looking forward to a visit from David Sargent, Jr., author of the Doggy Tale Series, the Best Friend Series and the Feather Tale Series. Mr. Sargent will be visiting Thursday, April 24, at 1 p.m. The students have been reading his books and exploring his website so they will have plenty of questions for him when he visits. As a special treat for the students, Mr. Sargent will also bring the dogs that are the main characters in his books.