



# Children First!

News & Information from Metro Nashville Public Schools

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## August 29, 2008

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### **School's Closed for Labor Day**

A friendly reminder to parents, MNPS will be closed this Monday, Sept. 1, in celebration of the Labor Day Holiday. Students will return to classes, normal hours, Tuesday, Sept. 2.

### **New School Board Members Sworn in to Office**

Tuesday, Aug. 26, five recently elected individuals were sworn in to serve on the Metro Board of Education. Sworn in were new member and District 1 representative Sharon Dixon Gentry, Ed.D., new member and District 9 representative Alan Coverstone, District 3 incumbent Mark North, District 5 incumbent Gracie Porter, and District 7 incumbent Edward Kindall. Each of these five will serve a four year term alongside JoAnn Brannon, Steve Glover, Karen Johnson, and David Fox. For more information about the board, visit [www.mnps.org](http://www.mnps.org).

### **Nashville School of the Arts to Host British Student Theatre Group**

Theatre students at Nashville School of the Arts (NSA), Davidson County's only visual and performing arts magnet high school, will host 16 students from the University of Cambridge, Great Britain, in exchange for Shakespeare workshops and a public production of "Henry V."

The Cambridge American Stage Tour (CAST) will make a three-day stop in Nashville Sept. 7 – 10. This is the second time that Nashville has been part of the company's annual performing arts tour through the United States.

The group will perform "Henry V" beginning 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 8, at NSA, 1250 Foster Ave. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students. "Henry V" is one of Shakespeare's history plays featuring one of England's most popular national heroes in this tale of conspiracy, conquest and romance.

While in Nashville, the British visitors stay with NSA families and get a chance to see NSA band students give a free public performance at the French Quarter Café, 823 Woodland St., in East Nashville (6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 9).

For more information, check out the company's website [www.castonline.org](http://www.castonline.org) or visit NSA's website [www.nsahs@mnps.org](mailto:www.nsahs@mnps.org).

### **Glenview Gets a New Piano Lab**

Thanks to the VH1 Save the Music Foundation, the students of Glenview Elementary School are enjoying a new piano lab. The lab consists of 16 pianos, and each piano is designed to accommodate two students.

Glenview Elementary currently employs two music specialists: Dr. Darryl Miller and Trisha Ruppert. Dr. Miller teaches piano to all 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders. Miss Rupert teaches general and vocal music to these same students through two 30-minute lessons a week. Both also teach kindergarten and first grade students.



### **Cora Howe Reading Recovery**

Sept. 11, Cora Howe Elementary will host two Reading Recovery 30 minute lessons behind a one-way mirror. The first lesson will begin at noon, the second at 12:45 p.m. Parents, teachers, principals and community leaders are invited to observe the teaching and learning at Cora Howe Elementary in East Nashville.

Reading Recovery is presently in 14 Metro Schools. It is a powerful intervention that saves children from grade retention and special education programs by intervening early and helping students to accelerate their learning and catch up with their peers. Reading Recovery involves 12-20 weeks of intensive instruction.

### **The Met Coming to MNPS**

The Metropolitan Opera in New York will soon be singing its way into Music City and MNPS. The Met has chosen six school districts in the U.S. to bring live performances for students, one of which includes Nashville. The Met will present four live performances that will be simulcast at the Opry Mills Theatre with 100 MNPS students in attendance (free of charge). These performances will be La Rondine on Jan. 10, Lucia di Lammermoor Feb. 7, Madama Butterfly March 7 and La Cenerentola May 9. Personnel from the Met will come to Nashville in October to train our teachers. The tickets will first be offered to MNPS high school choir students.

### **Teacher of the Week**

Cockrill students and staff joined radio station 107.5 The River and the Nissan Corporation, in honoring Sarah Schulz as teacher of the week, Aug. 25. Ms. Schulz is a third grade teacher who works very hard to ensure that all her students have every advantage.

As part of the award, Ms. Schulz received a check for \$100, as did her school. She is now in the running for teacher of the year, the winner of which will receive a free year long lease for a Nissan Maxima. Additionally, the person who nominated her and Cockrill Elementary will receive \$1000 if she wins.

### **Glencliff High Dedicates New Health Clinic**

Tuesday, Aug. 26, Glencliff High officially opened and dedicated its new health clinic. The clinic will be open Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. It will serve students and community members. The clinic project was developed as part of a comprehensive community health initiative. It will be operated and maintained by United Neighborhood Health Services. Other community partners integral to the opening of the clinic include: the Nolensville Road Community Partnership, South Nashville Family Resource Center, Coleman Community Center, Vanderbilt University's Life It Program,

Glencliff High School's Health Wellness and Aquatics Program and Glencliff's Health Science Career Academy. Joe Edgens, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, coordinated the construction contractor and the design of the clinic through his office.

On hand to celebrate the clinic's official opening were the health policy representatives from Senator Lamar Alexander's office and Senator Bob Corker's office. Senators Alexander and Corker have a particular interest in school-based clinics and have built them into their health reform legislation. Ann Oswalt of Senator Corker's office and Mary Sumpter-Johnson of Senator Alexander's office were taken on an informational tour of the facility. Neither had visited a school-based health center, and both were eager to learn more about the program.

The clinic is phase one of a plan to improve student and community access to health services, including prenatal care, immunizations, athletic physicals and general health care services. The other phases of this health initiative will include:

- A Glencliff High Wellness Center (cardio-vascular and strength training) for school, athletic and community use;
- Aquatics is available as part of the physical education program and for community use;
- Live It Program - a student health club that includes health screenings, weekly meetings, organized health initiatives and a healthy lunch component; and
- Health Sciences and Mental Health - Glencliff aligned the operation of the clinic with training and educational opportunities within our Health Sciences and Human Services Career Academies.



### **Survey on Special Education**

Nashville Mayor Karl Dean created the Advisory Council on Special Education in Metro Nashville Public Schools to assess the strengths and weaknesses of existing programs and policies of Special Education in MNPS.

If you are a parent or a guardian of a child enrolled in Special Education services in a Metro Nashville Public School (MNPS), please participate in an anonymous survey to improve Special Education in MNPS. The survey can be found online at [kc.vanderbilt.edu/SpecialEducation](http://kc.vanderbilt.edu/SpecialEducation). To request a paper copy, please contact [megan.m.griffin@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:megan.m.griffin@vanderbilt.edu).

A big part of this survey is to understand the perspectives and experiences of parents, educators and interested community members. With your survey participation, your priorities and concerns will be used to make recommendations to Mayor Dean about future improvements for Special Education in MNPS. The survey is anonymous and results will be reported in group form. Completing the survey should only take about 10 minutes; additionally, you are free to skip any question you do not want to answer. Surveys should be completed by Sept. 10

### **Free Computer Classes!**

Parents of Metro Public Schools students can now sign up for free adult computer-training classes provided by the MNPS Community Career Center. Basic beginner as well as Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint classes are being offered.

Free classes start Sept. 8 and will be offered through November at the following locations: 302 Foster Street in East Nashville; 3900 Clifton Ave. (near 40<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. and Charlotte Pike); 601 Benton Ave. (near the fairgrounds). For more information or to register, call 298-6752. Class schedules can be viewed at [www.mnps.org/Page41311.aspx](http://www.mnps.org/Page41311.aspx).

### **COPLA Meetings**

MNPS Comité de Padres Latinos (COPLA)/Committee of Latino Parents is starting a series of weekly meetings with Latino parents at their local school/cluster, in addition to the monthly cluster-wide regular meeting. The first of these weekly meetings for 2008-2009 will be 6:30-8 p.m., Friday, Sept. 5, at Apollo Middle School. The monthly meetings will take place the last Saturday of each month, at 10 a.m., starting Sept. 27.

The purpose of these meetings is to inform the parents about existing and future MNPS parental involvement programs, as well as other relevant information parents need to help their kids be successful.

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To request an accommodation, please contact your building principal or department head. (Interpreters for the deaf or hard of hearing must be requested forty-eight [48] hours prior to the event.) Questions or concerns may be referred to the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools Customer Service Center, 615/259-4636.

Si usted necesita información adicional o si usted tiene alguna pregunta, por favor llame o contacte al director de su escuela.

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