



Children First!

News & Information from Metro Nashville Public Schools

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What's Next on the School Board Agenda?

At the last school board meeting, Sept. 9, a district Choice Committee presented a new school choice plan to the school board. Tuesday, Sept. 23, the board is expected to discuss this plan, which if approved would give families more school selection options.

The plan has been more than a year in the making. It originally began with a meeting of MNPS administrators and parents, who reviewed the existing magnet school application and school transfer policies. The district received a great deal of constructive feedback from parents about the clarity and fairness of our current policies. In the fall of 2007, a committee was formed to begin searching for ways to improve all aspects of student assignment. The main purpose of the project was to create more choices for parents regarding which school their child(ren) attends, an easier process for parents to make the desired transfers, and a stricter school calendar for better enrollment projections and better preparation for the next school year.

This new proposal calls for leaving the current magnet lottery process intact but shortening the process by one month and expanding the open enrollment process to allow families to request placement in any school with available seats. This will also dramatically increase the number of schools families may select for their child. In addition, the enhanced open enrollment process will result in the elimination of the current special transfer process, except for hardship applications. To review the presentation made at the Sept. 9 school board meeting or the entire proposal as drafted by the Choice Committee, visit www.mnps.org.

Mayor's Town Hall Meeting

Mayor Karl Dean will hold his final Town Hall Meeting on education Monday, Sept. 22, at Stratford High. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. All in the Nashville community are invited to attend this public forum to share opinions and thoughts.

Whites Creek High School Air Force JROTC Participates in National Health Conference

Wednesday, Sept. 10, eight 2008 cadets from Whites Creek High School AFJROTC participated in the Coordinated School Health Conference, held at the Music City Sheraton Hotel. The cadets introduced various

speakers throughout the day, served as room monitors and on some occasions give input to the group. The conference was sponsored by the National Center for Youth Issues which works to empower educators by providing resources that positively impact the social and emotional well being of children and youths. Cadets in attendance were: Robert Hose, William Wurthmann, Kendra Friedberg, Raymond McGee, Kimberly Thompson, Jacob Troxel, Alonzo Page and Jasmine Parker. Dr Tina Bozeman, Metro Coordinator of Health, Wellness, Physical Education and JROTC, also attended the conference and assisted in the group's participation. SSgt Nickens, Aerospace Science Instructor, served as chaperone for the event. Ms Cathy Blount, event coordinator, thanked the group for making the event "extra special." For more information about Air Force JROTC, contact Major Roosevelt Williamson, Senior Aerospace Science Instructor, 876-5121, Ext 563.

Autism Speaks Walk at H.G. Hill

This year as a part of a community service goal, Fun Company at H. G. Hill participated in the Autism Speaks—Walk Now for Autism. The walk, a fundraising event for Autism Speaks, was Saturday, Sept. 13, at the Nashville Super Speedway. Autism Speaks is the nation's largest walk program dedicated to autism research. Since its inception in May 2000, approximately 171,000 people have participated in Autism Speaks—Walk Now for Autism. To date, Autism Speaks has raised more than \$18.3 million for autism research. Much thanks to Laura Dooley, the YMCA Fun Company H. G. Hill teacher for helping make the school's event a huge success.

Set Your Recorder! MNPS Teacher Named News2 Educator of the Week

Set your recorders, Cathy McCurdy of Martin Luther King, Jr. Magnet High School will be next week's News2 Educator of the Week. McCurdy will be featured in a special news segment that will air Thursday, Sept. 25, during the 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. newscasts on WKRN. The segments will be rebroadcast Friday, Sept. 25, sometime between 6 and 7 a.m.

Special Guest at Cumberland Elementary

The Tennessee State Attorney General Bob Cooper will be visiting Cumberland Elementary Friday, Sept. 26, at 2 p.m. to talk to the third and fourth grade students about life, responsibility and staying in school.

MNPS Offers Free Internet Safety Classes

For many parents, keeping up with what their children are being exposed to on the Internet is a constant challenge. To give parents a helping hand, the Metro Nashville Public Schools Community Career Center will be hosting a free Internet safety workshop at the Joelton Elementary School library Tuesday, Sept. 23, from 5:30-7 p.m.

The workshop is designed specifically for parents and will focus on blocking/spy software, instant message literacy and signs that a child may be involved in an improper online relationship. Joelton Elementary School is located at 7141 Whites Creek Pike, 876-5110. For more information, please contact the MNPS Community Career Center at 298-6752 or visit www.mnps.org/Page41311.aspx.

Charter School Applications Now Being Accepted

Now through Oct. 1, MNPS is accepting applications for charter schools. Currently, MNPS has three authorized charter schools: KIPP Academy, LEAD Academy, or Smithson-Craighead Academy.

For more information about charter schools and the application process, call the MNPS Customer Service Center at 259-INFO (4636) or visit <http://www.mnps.org/Page27221.aspx>.

Overton High 50th Anniversary

John Overton High School is celebrating fifty years of excellence. The school, located on Franklin Road, opened in 1958. The faculty and staff of John Overton High School are hosting a 50th Anniversary Celebration and Homecoming 2008 at Nick Coutras Stadium, Friday, Sept. 26. The festivities will begin with an Alumni Band performing pre-game at 6:45 p.m. and kick-off at 7 p.m. Many past administrators, faculty, coaches, staff and friends from 1958-2008 will be honored throughout the game.

In addition to the celebration, Overton is also inviting all Overton band alumni to dust off your horn, drum, flag, rifle or baton and join the school for the pre-game festivities. Registration will be in the gym from 5 - 6 p.m., followed by a short rehearsal at 6 p.m. Tunes to be played are the Star Spangled Banner and the Overton Fight Song. Returning Alum are asked to wear something red or black – maybe even an old band shirt. You will be admitted to the game free if you play or at least look like you are playing! Call the band room if you have questions 615-331-8586.

MLK Student Selected as National Science Competition Finalist

Jiahe Gu , an 8th grade student at Martin Luther King, Jr. Magnet, was recently named a finalist in the Society for Science & the Public's (SSP) 2008 Middle School Program. Gu was selected based on his project, "Under Pressure." This competition is considered America's premiere science competition for middle school students.

Finalists will travel to Washington, D.C. in October to compete for \$40,000 in scholarships and awards, with the top winner receiving a \$20,000 award from the Society for Science & the Public. Each finalist will receive at least \$500 in awards. The 2008 Finalists were selected from more than 75,000 students who entered local science fairs around the nation during the 2007–2008 school year. From this pool, more than 1,900 students submitted written entries and were narrowed down in early September to 300 Semifinalists, representing 42 states and Puerto Rico, and 30 finalists.

A full listing of finalists can be found at www.societyforscience.org/msp, along with brief project descriptions and biographical information.

Stars of the Future – The Mayor's Citywide Talent Show

For many years, the Mayor's Youth Council has sponsored a citywide talent show. This special event provides a valuable platform for Nashville's youth to express their gifts and talents. This year, the talent show will serve a dual purpose as the Mayor's Youth Council has adopted environmental sustainability as their emphasis. The talent show will not only feature Nashville youth's talents, but will also be a forum for the Mayor's Youth Council to educate Nashville's youth on this important issue of environmental sustainability.

Middle and high school students are eligible to audition for a spot in the finale. All interested students should submit an application to the Mayor's Office of Children and Youth no later than Oct. 3.

Applications can be accessed and downloaded at www.nashville.gov/mocy/youthcouncil/index.htm. Auditions will be held Oct. 11 at Rocketown from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Approved acts will be notified the following week.

Stars of the Future: Clean Up Your Act! will be held Nov. 8, 2008 at Rocketown. Doors will open at 6 p.m., and the event will begin at 7 p.m. The talent show is free and open to the public.

GradeSpeed Alert – Attendance Not Always Updating

Parents, please note that GradeSpeed is experiencing difficulties reporting student attendance to ParentConnection. GradeSpeed is a new communication tool that allows parents to regularly check their child's grades and attendance. When a student is marked for an unexcused absence (A) in GradeSpeed it is sent to SMS and ParentConnection. The parent can then see this unexcused absence on ParentConnection. If the teacher then goes back into GradeSpeed and changes the absence to excused (E) and resubmits it, GradeSpeed is updating to show the change (E/A) in GradeSpeed, but the change is not always being updated to SMS or to Parent Connection. Therefore, ChancerySMS and ParentConnection may still be showing the previous code (A). MNPS IT Department is fully aware of the problem and has enlisted Campusware to correct the problem.

Whites Creek Students Win Scholarships During TSU John A. Merritt Classic Fall Preview Day

Congratulations to several Whites Creek students who won scholarships at the John A. Merritt Classic Fall Preview Day held at Tennessee State University Saturday, Sept. 6. The students receiving scholarships are: Alisha Doggett, Academic Higher Achiever; Amber Baker, Building Bridges; Courtney Lewis, Building

Bridges; Evelyn Sisco, Academic Higher Achiever; Kadajah Porter, Academic Higher Achiever; Tammi Johnson, Academic Higher Achiever; and Victoria Strickland, Building Bridges.

MLK Teacher to Receive Distinguished Teaching Award

Mrs. Catherine Kelly, a teacher at Martin Luther King, Jr. Magnet, will be honored at the National Conference on Geographic Education in Dearborn, Michigan Oct. 11, with a Distinguished Teaching Award. Seven middle school teachers from across North America will be honored this year. Kelly will also be recognized for her outstanding contributions in geographic education. The judges considered letters of recommendation from colleagues, teaching materials and methods, leadership, professional development, involvement in student activities and development of innovative materials.

Hands on Nashville Day

Hands on Nashville Day is right around the corner! Saturday, Sept. 27, volunteers will work at more than 60 school sites completing various projects around the campus. Projects might include painting, landscaping, or just cleaning.

Glendale Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

Throughout the month of September, Glendale Elementary has been celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. Each day a famous Latin person is being introduced on the announcements and information is put on a bulletin board for the children to read. The PTO has also arranged for a special performance by Tango Nashville. The last week of the month, Sept. 22 - 26, children and staff will wear their favorite Latin clothes for the celebration. That week, many native Latinos will also visit the school and read to the children in Spanish.



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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