



Children First!

News & Information from Metro Nashville Public Schools

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School Board Asks for Work Session on Student Assignment Plan

At the last school board meeting, Sept. 23, the school board voted to hold a special work session and discuss implementation of the student assignment plan that passed in July. The plan calls for a return to neighborhood schools. Board members will meet with administrators soon to sort out details of the plan, namely transportation, additional resources for schools, communications and funding.

Also at the meeting, Human Resources presented an update on the hiring of special education school bus monitors. As of Sept. 23, the district has 165 newly hired bus monitors or educational assistants serving as special education school bus monitors. The bus monitors are required to attend 28 hours of training before they are allowed to work on the bus, six hours of crisis prevention training, four hours of CPR training, 16 hours of training in transporting student with disabilities and two hours of wheel chair and special equipment training. Currently, 38 buses are not staffed, but the district has put a protocol in place to determine which buses are staffed first. First, students whose Individualized Education Plan's (IEP's) state they require a bus monitor is assigned a bus monitor. Secondly, students from Harris-Hillman who require bus monitors are assigned, and thirdly, students who have behavior issues are assigned a bus monitor. Additionally, students with special equipment are assigned bus monitors, buses in which the transportation department and the school believe a monitor is needed, and buses transporting two or more Pre-K students are provided a bus monitor.

The school board also offered comments to the New School Choice plan presented at the previous meeting. The plan will move forward for the 2009-2010 school year. The MNPS Federal Programs Office will implement the changes, and the Communications Department is working on several informational pieces that will be available to families as they make decisions for the upcoming school year.

A final note of importance was the passing of two new contracts for teacher programs -- *Teach for America* and the *New Teacher Project*. Both programs are designed to help recruit quality teachers to school districts.

MNPS Hosts Annual College Night

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools will host the 2008 College Night, Tuesday, Sept. 30, from 4:15-8:15 p.m., at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds in the Creative Arts Building.

Students and parents will have a one-stop shop of more than 150 colleges and universities from across the United States. Students will also have the opportunity to get their questions answered and receive information on admissions requirements, financial aid, college tuition, academic programs and the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Program.

Hands on Nashville Day this Saturday

This Saturday, Sept. 27, from 8 a.m. – noon, 1,400 volunteers will gather for the city's largest day of service, Hands on Nashville Day. In all, 63 schools will benefit, with more than 51 schools getting manicured and mulched landscapes; and 101 doors, 45 hallways and stairwells, 26 classrooms, 26 picnic tables, and 6 schools' playground equipment will receive a fresh paint of coat. Schools may also receive general repair work or just a good cleaning. For more information, or a complete list of schools participating and their projects, visit www.hon.org.

NSA to Perform *The Foreigner*

Mark your calendars! Oct. 2 – Oct. 5, drama students at Nashville School of the Arts will perform *The Foreigner*. Miles Gatrell will perform the role of Charlie and Jules Trueba plays his friend, Staff Sergeant Froggy LeSueur. Other leading actors in this cast of seven are Cody Woodside as Ellard Simms, Peter Stringer-Hye as Owen Musser, Natalie Sutton as Catherine Simms, Mary Molly Storey as Betty Meeks and Seth Gunnells as David.

Performances are 7 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Oct. 2 - Oct.4, and 2 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 5, at Nashville School of the Arts, 1250 Foster Ave. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$8 for adults. For more information, call 291-6600.

Venezuelan Exchange Students Visit Glencliff

Six Venezuelan exchange students visited Glencliff High this past week as part of the school's new global initiative with Cumberland University and the YMCA. This new initiative aims to establish a YMCA university and hospital in Venezuela that would also support Glencliff's Health Sciences and Engineering pathways within the school's Career Academies.

Maplewood High School Air Force JROTC Participates in National Health Conference

Thursday, Sept. 11, seven cadets from Maplewood High School's 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: Casey Trotter, Chiquita Wilbert, George Patterson, Dakota Davis, Courtney Lawson, Yasmine Crook, and Altheta Gordon. Dr Tina Bozeman, Metro Coordinator of Health, Wellness, Physical Education and JROTC, also attended the conference and assisted in the group's participation. Lt Col Martha Shaffer, Senior 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 and future support from the JROTC students, contact Lt Col Martha Shaffer, Senior Aerospace Science Instructor, 259-5564, Ext 1101.

Youth Speaks Summit

Saturday, Sept. 27, Youth Speaks Nashville will partner with the Nashville Public Library to hold a Spoken Word and Slam Society Summit. At the event, adult and youth spoken word poets and emcees

will conduct an introductory workshop on the art of spoken word and provide information on youth spoken word events and activities planned for the year.

The summit will be held at the Nashville Public Library's main downtown library. Interested youth between the ages of 13 and 19 are invited. A registration form for the event can be downloaded at <http://www.mnps.org/Page34214.aspx>.

MNPS Gifted and Talented Executive Director Named President of TAG

Beth O'Shea, MNPS Executive Director of Gifted and Talented Program, was recently installed as the president of the Tennessee Association for Gifted (TAG) at the 29th annual Tennessee Association for Gifted annual conference at the Sheraton Read House Hotel in Chattanooga, TN. The two-day conference, entitled "Opening the Gates to High Achievement" focused on ways to enhance differentiation in regular as well as gifted education classrooms, engaging students in meaningful research projects, implementing authentic assessment strategies, using flexible grouping for differentiation, working with gifted underachievers, and dealing with perfectionism.

Goals for the Tennessee Association for Gifted include: advocating at the local, state, and national levels on behalf of gifted learners and their families; offering high quality professional development for teachers who work with gifted learners; providing scholarships for high-quality after-school or extracurricular learning opportunities for gifted students; and increasing membership and conference attendance.

TAG is an affiliate of the National Association for Gifted Children and the Council of Exceptional Children. More information can be found at www.tag-tenn.org.

Teaming Up for Healthy Hearts -- and Healthy Kids

Tennessee Titans linebacker, David Thornton, and the American Heart Association (AHA) launched a new program for kids, "What Moves U," at a special event Tuesday, Sept. 23, at West End Middle. The program is sponsored by the Titans and AHA and is being rolled out across the district. Its goal is to help teachers and students find ways to incorporate at least 90 minutes of physical activity each week into their lives. After the assembly, Thornton provided a brief meet and greet with students at West End.

The program was designed in an effort to combat childhood obesity, now regarded as the number one health concern among parents in the U.S. Nearly one out of every three children or adolescents are overweight or obese. The founders of the "What Moves U" program realize that parents and teachers can be highly influential in helping kids get healthy -- through healthier eating habits and physical activity. For more information about "What Moves U," visit www.whatmovesu.com.

Rosebank Reaches Out to Families

Rosebank Elementary is reaching out to families through special school events. Tuesday, Sept. 16, the school celebrated Grandparent's Day by inviting every student's grandparent(s) for lunch. The cafeteria was full of chatter and excitement as Rosebank enjoyed more than 60 special guests.

Thursday, Sept. 18, Rosebank kicked off a series called "You Read to Me, I Read to You." Evenings of these events, different grade levels are invited to bring their families to the library to read together and enjoy books. Rosebank began this series of small family reading nights with Pre-K and Kindergarten families. It was very exciting to see younger students and their families eager to experience the joy of reading. This new program is just one way Rosebank is spreading the joy of books through families.

H.G. Hill 5th Graders Put the "Serve" in Service

Fifth graders at H.G. Hill are putting the "serve" in service this school year as they participate in a number of service projects. The projects coincide with two components of service learning currently being emphasized at H.G. Hill: fostering a sense of care for others and reflecting on service experiences.

In recognition of Hunger Action Month in September, the students are collecting jars of peanut butter for Feeding America (Formerly Second Harvest Food Bank) from now until Oct. 17. The purpose of this project is to help prevent hunger for people in our community and reach out to those who are hungry because of natural disasters, such as Hurricane Ike. The school plans to have a speaker from Feeding America visit and talk with the fifth graders at a Spotighting Success Assembly in October.

H.G. Hill fifth graders are also participating in SolesUnitedsm (Crocstm). Participants can collect worn-out crocstm shoes (they have to be “real” crocstm!). The school will then send the shoes to the SolesUnitedsm program where they will be cleaned, broken down and recycled into new crocstm shoes. These shoes are donated to people who need footwear all over the world.

The fifth grade students are also being encouraged to increase their vocabulary skills and help fight world hunger at home by logging on to www.freerice.com. When students answer vocabulary questions correctly, 20 grains of rice are donated to the United Nations World Food Program. The more correct answers they get, the more rice hungry people get. This unique service project is a great way for students to help others and themselves.

In October, each Wednesday will be a devoted "Kindness and Gratitude Day." On these days, students will share acts of kindness, write thank you notes and reflect on things for which they are grateful.

For more information about any of these service projects or if you are interested in helping the school, please contact H.G. Hill at 353 - 2020 (extension 544).

“Moore” from Music Row

Saturday, Sept. 27, J.T. Moore opens its doors for “Moore” from Music Row. The school will welcome in volunteers from the music industry as they drop off gently worn but still functional music recording and video production equipment for the school’s Matador Studio.

“Moore” from Music Row is a campaign launched by parent volunteers of J.T. Moore students to help fund the school’s new Technology Studio. Music, film and television production is the primary focus of the studio. Students will have an opportunity to write songs and create, produce, and edit music. Through the new studio, students will also be able to create, produce and edit works of film and television.

J.T. Moore serves the Music Row/Edgehill fifth through eighth graders and children living in 12 South District, Green Hills and Forest Hills. J.T. Moore is a diversified school with a principal who is a staunch supporter of music, film and creative arts education.

Brick Church Middle School International Culture Fair

Brick Church Middle School recently held an International Culture Fair in which the top 50 student projects were displayed. Thursday, Sept. 25, students involved in the top projects made presentations before judges, most done in authentic cultural dress. To make the fair more exciting, the entire school participated by decorating the hallways of the school using a particular region of the world as each hallway’s theme.

ACE Moves into Antioch High

Antioch High School held an organizational meeting for the ACE Mentor Program this past week, and 56 students attended. From the applicants a team of about 20 students will be selected. Mentors from participating architecture, construction and engineering companies will adopt the Antioch team for a school year, meeting with the students about 15 times after school throughout the year. The team of professionals will show students how various aspects of the industry work. Students will get to see behind-the-scenes office tours and take field trips to construction sites. The students will also produce a design product under the guidance of the participating company mentors.

J.T. Moore Prepares for Biz Town with “Business Week”

Friday, Sept. 26, one of the nation’s top economists, Carlos Lara, visited J.T. Moore 5th and 6th graders as part of the school’s “Business Week” activities. Mr. Lara discussed how businesses and individuals can endure in the nation’s present economic situation. The Moore students are preparing for a November trip to Junior Achievement’s Biz Town.

Pearl-Cohn Parent Night

Exciting changes are coming to Pearl Cohn Magnet High School, including the creation of Smaller Learning Communities that will allow students to choose the area of study (career or thematic) which best suits them.

Parents of Pearl Cohn freshman and sophomores and parents of 7th and 8th graders who will be attending Pearl Cohn in the future can learn more about these changes by attending a special meeting Tuesday, Sept. 30, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., at Bethlehem Centers, 1417 Charlotte Ave.

A representative from Pearl Cohn will be on hand to answer questions, and refreshments will be served. It is not necessary to reserve a seat in order to attend the meeting, but the first 30 parents to register by phone will receive a \$10 Kroger gift card at the meeting. For more information or to reserve a seat, call Bethlehem Centers at 329-3386.

Oliver Middle Advanced Band Performance

The Oliver Middle School Advanced Band will be performing at Oliver Tuesday, Sept. 30, beginning at 7:15 p.m. This performance is in preparation for the school’s upcoming performance at the Hospital Corporation of America’s yearly meeting, which will be held Thursday, Oct. 2, at Opryland Hotel. The band will be performing a 30-minute program featuring a variety of pieces for approximately 1,000 representatives of HCA.

More than \$200,000 Grant Awarded to MNPS

Governor Phil Bredesen and the Davidson County Legislative Delegation today announced \$235,000 in grants for Davidson County Schools to continue Coordinated School Health Partnerships, encouraging systems to build strong relationships with local resources to improve students’ health.

Since piloting 10 partnerships in 2002, Tennessee has dedicated a steady stream of funding that has in turn resulted in an additional \$4 million gain at the district level. This is a result of partnerships developed by local CSH Coordinators. Through these partnerships, families, community members and schools are brought together to focus on health awareness, physical activity, healthy nutrition and counseling services.

Haywood Elementary Celebrates Hispanic Cultural Month

To celebrate Hispanic Cultural Month, Haywood Elementary recently held a Hispanic Cultural Celebration. The celebration began with a second grade song and dance performance. A PTO Meeting followed, then parents were invited to a Title I Informational Meeting. Harry, the school’s cub mascot, was there taking pictures with students. Guests also enjoyed a potluck feast, in which all cultures were encouraged to share native dishes. At least 250 people were in attendance. Fermin Cardona, Haywood’s interpreter, played his keyboard and sang while the families enjoyed their meal.



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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