



Children First!

News & Information from Metro Nashville Public Schools

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School Board Gets Answers at Reassignment Work Session

A special board work session on the 2009-2010 Student Assignment Plan was held Tuesday, Sept. 30. At the work session, board members and administrators discussed in detail the district's implementation plan to provide additional resources to schools, communication of changes to the community, transportation issues, and funding.

SLC Late Arrival Day

Monday, Oct. 6, students attending the 12 MNPS high schools implementing Smaller Learning Communities will have an SLC late arrival day. The high schools affected are: Antioch, Cane Ridge, Glencliff, Hillsboro, Hillwood, Hunters Lane, Maplewood, McGavock, Overton, Pearl-Cohn, Stratford and Whites Creek. Students enrolled in these 12 high schools will report to school 2 ½ hours late, with the school day beginning at 9:40 a.m. Buses will still run for all students; they will simply run the routes 2 ½ hours later than normal school days. Therefore, if a student normally catches the bus at 6:30 a.m., he or she should expect to catch it on an SLC late arrival day at 9 a.m.

MNPS Educator Headed to Russia

Jennifer Berry, Ph.D., a peer assistance leadership and support mentor with MNPS, has been invited to lead a professional development workshop in Russia by the Embassy of the United States of America to the Russian Federation. Dr. Berry will travel to Saratov Oblast in Russia Oct. 17-26, to lead an educational workshop for Russian secondary teachers under the Language, Technology, Math and Science (LTMS) Exchange. During her exchange, Berry will be conducting teacher professional development sessions, seminars, and giving presentations to 150-300 teachers. The focus of her sessions will be the U.S. system of education and methodology for high school students and teachers. Dr. Berry will keep a blog during her travels. If you'd like to follow along, visit <http://jenniferberry.edublogs.org/>.

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

Set your recorders, Shereka Roby-Grant of Bass Middle School will be next week's News2 Educator of the Week. Roby-Grant is a 6th grade teacher, girls' volleyball coach and boys' track coach. The segment will air on News2, Thursday, Oct. 9 during the 6 p.m. & 10 p.m. broadcasts, and again Friday, Oct. 10 during the 6 a.m. - 7:00 a.m. news program. Roby-Grant will receive \$100, as will W. A. Bass. Congratulations Ms. Roby-Grant and W.A. Bass!

Nashville Classrooms Adopted for a Day

Wednesday, Oct. 1, several MNPS classrooms were "Adopted for a Day" by OfficeMax and Adopt-a-Classroom. Through the program, surprise in-school ceremonies were held at various schools in which teachers received donations of some much appreciated school supplies and resources worth more than \$1,000. MNPS schools selected to participate include Brick Church Middle, Whitsitt Elementary, and McKissack Middle.

Glendale Celebrates Hispanic Heritage

Glendale Spanish Immersion celebrated Hispanic Heritage month by studying a famous Latin person each day in September. Parents also participated by picking out famous Spanish people and putting their pictures and biographies on the front bulletin board for the children to read. In October, Glendale will host a Tango presentation as a special assembly, and Oct. 9, the children will be asked to wear their favorite Spanish outfits to school.

Maplewood High Hosts Presidential Debate Viewing Party

Tuesday, Oct. 7, at 7 p.m., Maplewood High School will open its doors for a special viewing party for the 2008 Town Hall Presidential Debate being held at Belmont University. The debate will feature Senators John McCain and Barack Obama. The viewing party will be held in the school's Panther Inn; the school is located at 401 Walton Lane, Nashville. Members of the school's government classes, Student Council, Student Leadership and their parents are invited to attend. Doors will open at 7 p.m. and the debate will begin at 8 p.m.

Encore Off to a Great Start

The MNPS Encore Family Picnic held Friday, Sept. 12, at Centennial Park was a huge success. Roughly 300 people attended the event. The magicians and balloon makers, Rodney Kelly and Sean Hughes were an especially big hit with the children, as every child was given a balloon animal souvenir. Other highlights included the magic show and snow cones.

Dan Mills Proves Walking Works

Dan Mills's students and teachers are participating in the Blue Cross Walking Works for Schools program. Every day, each class will walk for an average of 10 minutes. The school will do this for 24 weeks and track the daily walks on a poster. At the end of the 24 week program, every participant will receive a pedometer. Dan Mills strives to be healthy, as they believe that a healthy body will make a healthy mind.

Inglewood's "Run in the Wood"

If you like to run, walk, or just want to support a worthwhile cause, the Inglewood Neighborhood Association (INA) has an event for you. The INA is holding its second annual Inglewood 5K "Run in the Wood" Saturday, Oct. 18. This event is one of the association's major fundraising events of the year. A portion of the proceeds will go to support the Litton Middle School Band. The course is USATF Track and Field certified, and race management is provided by the Nashville Striders. For more information on the run, or to register, go to <http://www.inglewood5k.com/>.

McGavock Athlete Guest Appearance on "Titans on 2"

Congratulations to McGavock football player and senior Zach Franklin for his recognition as the Beaman Buick Pontiac GMC High School Player of the Week. To celebrate his accomplishments, Franklin received a trophy during a special appearance on the Jeff Fisher Show that aired Tuesday, Sept. 30, on WKRN. Franklin scored four touchdowns last week for McGavock in a 28-21 victory against LaVergne. Franklin has lined up at quarterback, wide receiver, and running back.

Hillwood High Named Channel 4's Cool School

Hillwood High School was selected as the Channel 4 Cool School for the week of Sept. 29 - Oct. 3. Students and staff gathered at the school early Friday morning for a pep rally and several live appearances during Channel 4 News Today. As part of the recognition, the school highlighted 10 things that are cool about Hillwood. These included pieces from each of the school's new Career and Thematic Academies: the History of the America's class meeting in the outdoor classroom, the band, a snapshot of public health, sculpture class, yearbook, photography class, culinary arts class, AVID, AP Chemistry, and the school's international students.

Youth Presidential Debate

The Youth Presidential Debate was held at the Parthenon, Wednesday, Oct. 1. Rep. Jim Cooper represented Senator Barack Obama; Mayor Bill Haslam represented Senator John McCain; and John Seigenthaler moderated in a town hall format similar to the one that will be used at Belmont next week. Seniors from all MNPS Schools were invited to attend, along with students from many of Nashville's non-public schools. The questions for the event were submitted entirely by students

and selected by the students on the Mayor's Youth Council. Also invited to attend were the Metro School Board members and MNPS Interim Director Chris Henson.

Wright Middle Visited by Famous Authors

Thursday, Oct. 9, five well-known authors will visit Wright Middle School to speak to the students. Ted Dunagan, *A Yellow Watermelon*, Wilmoth Foreman, *Summer of the Skunks*, and Carole Boston Weatherford, *Becoming Billie Holiday*, will visit with fifth and sixth graders; Margaret McMullan, *When I Crossed No-Bob*, and Helen Hemphill, *The Adventurous Deeds of Deadwood Jones*, will speak to seventh and eighth graders.

All five authors write historical fiction and are participating in the Southern Festival of Books the following weekend. The Festival bought enough copies of the authors' books for each student to receive one book.

Charlotte Park Working to Boost Literacy

More than 35 parents attended a workshop Wednesday, Oct. 1, at Charlotte Park Elementary School. The workshop, "Ready to Learn," was sponsored by Nashville Public Television (channel 8). "Ready to Learn" offers ideas to get parents excited about literacy in the home. Topics of discussion included: training on the importance of literacy, how to read a book with your child, and suggested questions to ask a child while they are reading. Each parent in attendance received a free DVD and five books to begin their at-home library. Charlotte Park will continue to have two workshops a month throughout the year, one at the beginning of the month and one at the end. The beginning of the month workshops will be held at 8:30 a.m. and the end of the month workshops will be held at 6 p.m. in an effort to accommodate more families. The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 28 at 6 p.m.

MNPS School Psychologists Lead State Organization

Dr. Ron Roberts, an MNPS school psychologist, was recently elected as president of the Tennessee Association of School Psychologists (TASP), an organization which focuses on professional needs and development of school psychologists throughout our state. He will serve as president through June of 2010. Other officers from MNPS include school psychologists Caryn Darwin, who will serve as the organization's secretary, and Dr. Beverly Whalen-Schmeller, who will serve as the newsletter editor.

TASP will host a Mid-South Conference in Chattanooga Oct. 26-29, in collaboration with the state organizations of Alabama and Mississippi. Several nationally known speakers such as Dr. Mark Shinn and Dr. Alan Coulter will be featured at the conference. As the President of TASP, Dr. Roberts will represent Tennessee at the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) Conference in Feb., 2009 in Boston, Massachusetts. Congratulations to all of these individuals.

Childhood Nutrition Day

Thursday, Oct. 16, the American Culinary Federation Middle Tennessee Chapter will hold its annual Childhood Nutrition Day at Johnson School, 1200 2nd Ave. South. The focus of the event is to educate people on childhood obesity and the benefits of exercise.

W.H. Oliver Middle School Focuses on Service Projects.

W.H. Oliver Middle School has been working to serve the school, community and environment. Saturday, Sept. 27, 20+ volunteers from Caterpillar spent the morning working on the landscaping around the building. They replaced trees, planted flowers and mulched. Several volunteers also worked inside hanging special rails so teachers can easily display student work. Along with the volunteers from Caterpillar, 65 sixth grade students from the G.R.E.A.T. program and members of the Student Council also participated in Hands-On Nashville Day. The students worked extremely hard to clean student desks, clean-up trash around the school, and pick-up debris and rocks on the football field.

The W.H. Oliver Student Council representatives recently sponsored a giving campaign to donate loose change to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The student body donated more than \$2300 to help St. Jude! Congratulations to Ms. Gardner's sixth grade homeroom who will receive a party sponsored by Chili's for donating the most money.

W.H. Oliver Middle School has also started an Environmental Club. Ms. Gardner and her "Green Team" will be helping Oliver students, teachers and staff recycle paper, cardboard, plastic bottles and containers, metal and aluminum cans. Thank you to Allied Waste for providing a recycling dumpster for the school.

GED Hispanic Program

Draughons Jr. College is offering a GED program designed for Hispanics. The program is federally funded through the U.S. Department of Education and is administered by The University of Tennessee. It is designed to assist migrant and seasonal farm workers, and their children, in obtaining their GED.

The program is taught completely in Spanish. Practice tests and the official GED test are also given in Spanish. The program is free and includes all instructional materials. Morning and evening classes are offered. For more information, call 615-530-5776.

Tennessee Children Welcome the Presidential Candidates

Monday, Oct. 6, Tennessee youth are invited to welcome the presidential candidates to town at a special event at the Bicentennial Mall. The event runs from 3 – 6:30 p.m. and will consist of information, games, music, theatrical groups, and much more! For more information, visit www.tennessee.gov/tccy or call (615) 741-2633

Other Upcoming Events around the District

- Oct. 4 NSA Presents “The Foreigner” –Oct. 4, 7 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 5, 2 p.m.
McGavock HS Marching Band Regionals at Murray State, Murray, KY
- Oct. 5 Whites Creek Marching Band Festival, Chattanooga, 4 p.m.
- Oct. 6 Harpeth Valley Fall Program, 6:30 p.m. at Harpeth Heights Baptist Church
- Oct. 7 Tulip Grove “The Quilt Speaks” 3rd Grade Program, 6:30 p.m.
Bellevue Strings First Concert, 6 p.m.
Creswell’s “An Evening with Kipling,” 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 8 Walk to School Day
Sylvan Park Walk to School Parade, 7:30 a.m.
Creswell’s “An Evening with Kipling,” 9 a.m.
- Oct. 9 Overton presents “Inherit the Wind,” 7 p.m.
Cockrill 3rd Grade Concert/PTO, 6 p.m.
- Oct. 10 Overton presents “Inherit the Wind,” 7 p.m.



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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