



Children First!

News & Information from Metro Nashville Public Schools

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Department of Education Holds High School Redesign Conference

Tennessee Department of Education held its first *High School Redesign Initiative for Title I High Priority High Schools Conference*, Oct. 30-31, at the Nashville Airport Marriott. Teams from Memphis City, Metro Nashville, Knox County, Hamilton County, Jackson-Madison County, Campbell County, Henderson County, Union County Schools and Bradford Special School District learned basic practices in redesigning struggling high schools and special Title I school improvement funds that will support those redesign efforts.

Tennessee was recently approved by the U.S. Department of Education for the Title I School Improvement Grant to target funds to struggling Title I high schools. As part of the kick-off, school districts will be eligible for planning grants up to \$2.5 million to research high school models for their eligible high schools. The planning grants will allow schools to investigate models of successful high schools across the nation and prepare an application to participate in this multi-year initiative.

Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Saturday, Nov. 1, Metro Public Works will sponsor a Hazardous Waste Collection Day at several Nashville sites. From 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., you can drop off residential waste (including small household batteries, compact fluorescent bulbs, fluorescent tubes, cell phones, mercury thermometers and unused and out of date medications) at one of five locations: Hillsboro High School, Bellevue at the MTA Park & Ride Coley Davis Road and Highway 70 S., Dupont Hadley Middle School, Joelton Middle School, and Elysian Fields Kroger.

Una Elementary Students Pick the President

Thursday, Oct. 30, Una Elementary students and staff got a hands-on lesson in voting by participating in the National Student/Parent Mock Election.

Students and staff were paper-pollled in the morning and received "I Voted" stickers courtesy of the Davidson County Election Commission. Votes were then counted by Mrs. Perkins's class and logged into the Mock Election website to be compiled with the other schools participating across the United States.

The National Student/Parent Mock Election is the oldest, largest and most successful voter-education project, to date. Since the first Mock Election in 1980, nearly 50 million young voters have cast their ballots and in the process, discovered what it means to be an American citizen and the value of citizenship in our democracy.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Thurgood Marshall



Oct. 28, Thurgood Marshall Middle School celebrated its official school opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Faculty, staff, students, parents, and community leaders applauded and cheered as Mayor Karl Dean, Ellen Kelly White, Jane Hurt, Jafer Abdulla, and two eighth grade students Aaliyah Gore and Shelby Wilkes cut the ribbon for the opening of the middle school.

The ceremony included special guests Interim Director of Schools Chris Henson, Congressman Jim Cooper, Mayor Karl Dean, Senator Joe Haynes, Nashville Council members Sam Coleman and Vivian Wilhoite, and Metro School Board Member Dr. Jo Ann Brannon and Metro School Board Chairman David Fox.

Thurgood Marshall Middle School was named after the first African American to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States, Justice Thurgood Marshall. Marshall is known for his victory in the historic *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka*, which abolished the legal separation of races in America's schools.

Mayor Visits Harris-Hillman

Mayor Karl Dean will be visiting Harris-Hillman School, Monday, Nov. 3, from noon- 1p.m. The mayor will be available to talk and answer parent's questions and concerns.

Neely's Bend participates in Pasta for Pennies

Last school year, Neely's Bend Middle School raised more than \$3,000 in Olive Garden's 14th annual Pasta for Pennies program for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Almost 13,000 students in 26 local elementary, middle and high schools collected a total of \$30,083.07 to support research and provide services to patients and their families. Nationally \$5.8 million was raised, the most in the program's 14 year history. Congratulations to Neely's Bend, for your hard work and generosity.

Nashville Principals present at the NABSE in Atlanta

Gregory Hutchings, principal at West End Middle School and Roderick Manuel, principal at Hillsboro High School have been selected as presenters at the National Association of Black School Educators Conference, Nov.19-23. This year's conference theme is "The International Baccalaureate program and Student Achievement." Both schools currently offer a version of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme; Hillsboro offers the IB Diploma program, and West End offers the Middle Years Programme (MYP).

The conference will be geared toward administrators and principals who are interested in improving student achievement using the IB curriculum. Presenters will discuss the International Baccalaureate Organization, application process for IB, administration of the IB program, and student achievement using the IB.

Head Middle Magnet School Rocked the Vote

Head Middle Magnet Student Council sponsored a mock presidential election Wednesday, Oct. 29. Students represented John McCain and Barack Obama and made speeches during the morning announcements. The students then voted for the candidate of their choice, while student council members acted as election officials and poll workers. After voting, each student received an "I voted today in the Head Middle Magnet School

Mock Election” sticker. Results were announced the next day. Students voted online using the Tennessee ballot at the following website: <http://www.nationalmockelection.org/> .

Undefeated Titans and Whites Creek AFJROTC Score with Kids Zone

The Tennessee Titans and 40 cadets from Whites Creek High School Air Force JROTC recently participated in the pre-game activity called Titans Experience Kids Zone at the Titans vs. Texans and Titans vs. Vikings football games.

The Kids Zone is a Titans’ sponsored pre-game activity for kids set up outside LP Field before each home game. Kids participate in a variety of football challenges designed to promote physical fitness, such as football toss, field goal kick, football obstacle course, etc. The Whites Creek cadets helped setup, tear down and supervise all of the challenges. Afterward, they were admitted to the game, which for most of the cadets was their first NFL game. This is the second year cadets from the unit have participated in this service project.

McGavock alumnus candidate for GQ Magazine Man of the Year Award

Reggie Whitmore, director of Nashville RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities), former minor league baseball player, and McGavock High School alumnus is in the running for the next GQ Magazine Man of the Year Award.

Whitmore, a native of Nashville, is RBI’s only full-time employee. He coaches, drives kids to practice and grills for the kids on the weekend. For the past 12 years, Whitmore has vacationed to Disney World with straight-A students and even delayed his honeymoon for a baseball tournament. He provides free baseball and softball league uniforms and equipment to more than 1,300 boys and girls and is committed to enriching the lives of the kids he serves.

To view the GQ contest visit <http://men.style.com/gq/polls/localheroes/localheroes/>

MNPS Students Semifinalists in the Siemens Competition

Three MNPS seniors recently placed as national semifinalists in the 2008 Siemens Competition, which rewards exceptional achievement in science, math and technology. The newest program, The Siemens “We Can Change the World Challenge,” encourages K-12 students to develop innovative green solutions for environmental issues.

Hana Erkou and Elizabeth Wei, both enrolled at Vanderbilt School for Math and Science, were selected as semifinalists for the competition. Erkou is working in the laboratory of Louise Rollins-Smith in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology. The title of her research paper is, "Antimicrobial Peptides that inhibit HIV and protect Beneficial Lactobacilli." Wei is working in the laboratory of Chris Williams in Gastroenterology. The title of her research paper is, "Creating an inducible expression system where the role of MTG8 in colorectal cancer can be better understood."

Charlie Xei, student at Martin Luther King, was also selected as semifinalist. Congratulations students!

Miller & Martin, Bordeaux's "New Best Friend"

Miller & Martin PLLC, and its partnership with Bordeaux Enhanced Option Elementary, became official this month when the school invited the law firm to a special partnership ceremony. Miller & Martin representatives were treated to student performances, a student-made sign and a scrap book featuring work from each classroom.

Melvin Malone, with Miller & Martin, spoke to students, encouraging them to listen to their teachers and parents and the importance doing well in school. He told students that Miller & Martin is "their new best friend." Each student left with a special treat from their lawyer friends - an adorable little pumpkin.



Miller & Martin has donated to Bordeaux in-kind and financial donations, clothing drives, volunteer time and more. Thank you!

Antioch High School will hold presidential debate

To encourage eligible Antioch High School students to vote, the school's debate team is hosting a presidential debate at 1:15 p.m., Nov. 3, the day before the 2008 Presidential election. The debate will be made up of two teams, each with two students and two teachers.

One side will debate for Sen. John McCain and the other for Sen. Barack Obama and participants will drill one another with questions.

Pearl-Cohn High Marching Band participates in homecoming

Pearl-Cohn High School Marching Band was invited to participate in Howard University's 2008 Homecoming Parade. The band members also performed in the Showcase of Bands held at Dunbar High School in Washington, D.C. during the homecoming festivities.

Also Pearl Cohn Marching Band helped celebrate the grand opening of MTA's new downtown transit station, The Music City Central, during grand opening festivities held Oct. 24.

Martha Vaught welcomes New York Times Bestselling Author

Martha Vaught Middle School will welcome Brandon Mull, author of Fablehaven series of books and the *Candy Shop*, Nov. 5, at 9 a.m. Mull will talk with students on the importance of using their imagination in their creative writing.

Grammy Career Day at Nashville School of the Arts

Nashville School of the Arts held Grammy Career Day, Tuesday, Oct. 28. Students attended various workshops on music videos, makeup and wardrobe design, songwriting, recording studios, vocal performing and music industry careers. There also was a panel discussion with producers, publishers, writers, and special guest Jessica Simpson, who performed for the student body and faculty.

John Overton Marching Band wins 47th annual Contest of Champions

Oct. 25, John Overton Marching Band received its third win at the 47th Annual Contest of Champions held at Middle Tennessee State University's Floyd Stadium. Overton competed against schools from all over Tennessee and the United States. McGavock High School Marching Band was also in the competition, placing fifth.

The Contest of Champions is one of the oldest marching contests in the country, which dates back 1960s and is considered the granddaddy of all marching contests. Congratulations to the Overton Marching Band!

Public Hearing on Acceptable Use Policy

MNPS will hold a public hearing on Thursday, Nov. 6, at 5 p.m. in the MNPS Central Office Boardroom. The purpose of this hearing is to allow the community to voice opinions on the new Acceptable Use of Electronic Media and Telecommunications Networks Policy. Click [here](#) to download a draft of the new policy.

H.G. Hill 5th Graders Learn It Doesn't Take "Magic" to Help the Environment

Friday, Oct. 24, H.G. Hill 5th graders concluded a study unit on recycling and the environment with a performance by educational magician Tom Vorjohan. Vorjohan, of Knoxville, presented his "EnviroMagic" show that demonstrates to students and teachers that it doesn't take magic to be a good steward of our Earth. During the show, magic tricks were used to demonstrate various lessons about water quality, protecting animals and recycling.



Vorjohan's background as a chemical engineer gives him a unique perspective when discussing recycling, decomposition and landfills. He has performed for students in Tennessee, Ohio, Georgia and Kentucky. Although he has been practicing magic for 32 years, he just began educational shows six years ago. He has presented shows on the life of Ben Franklin, a "Magic of Reading" program, a leadership program and this environmental program.

MNPS Students get a lesson in Life on Music Row

Thirty-nine MNPS students recently got a behind-the-scenes look at life on Music Row. While most think a career in the music industry is all glitz and glam, these students witnessed first-hand the hard work and commitment of Music Row executives.

Students from Antioch, East Literature, Hume-Fogg, Overton, Maplewood, Martin Luther King, McGavock, Nashville Big Picture, Nashville School of the Arts and Stratford participated in Music Row Job Shadow Day, a program put on by Junior Achievement of Middle Tennessee (JA) to give high school students with a penchant for music the opportunity to explore all the components of the music industry. The event was held across Music Row Oct. 25.

The day began for the students at Rocketown with a question-and-answer session from Jack Gavin, drummer and road manager for Tanya Tucker. Gavin also treated the students to a tour of a million-dollar tour bus to give them an idea of the experience of traveling with an artist on the road.

Fourteen companies around Nashville hosted students for the 11th-annual event. Some of these companies included veteran participants Compass Records, Curb Records, Haber Corporation and Word Entertainment. Sony/ATV Nashville, Still Working Music and NSAI were first-time participants in the event.

Other Upcoming Events

- Nov. 3 Antioch High School presidential debate
- Nov. 3 Middle School Honors Orchestra Concert
- Nov. 4 No School, Teachers In-Service students do not report.
- Nov. 6 Policy Board Meeting
- Nov. 6-8 Hume-Fogg Academic High School fall play *Sound of Music*
- Nov. 7 High School Honors Orchestra Concert



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.

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