



Children First!

News & Information from Metro Nashville Public Schools

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Community Out in Full Force to Meet the Director



This week, Director of Schools Dr. Register began a series of community meetings that allow parents and community members a chance to share input about their child's school and the district. The first meeting, held Feb. 3 at Antioch Middle for families in Metro Schools District 6, had more than 100 parents in attendance. Dr. Register answered questions, and parents were able to offer specific input through a district survey. The following night, parents in District 8 convened at Hillsboro High. And Thursday evening, parents from District 3

gathered at Hunters Lane High. Lots of great questions were asked, and the community input the district received is invaluable and will be used for the betterment of this school district and each child's education. The community meetings are in conjunction with a day of school visits within the respective Metro School Board Districts. More community meetings are scheduled throughout the month. Dates currently scheduled are:

- Feb. 9, 6 p.m., at Hillwood High, District 9, Board member Alan Coverstone
- Feb. 19, 6 p.m., Maplewood High, District 5, Board member Gracie Porter
- Feb. 25, 6 p.m., Overton, District 2, Board member Jo Ann Brannon
- Feb. 26, 6 p.m., at McGavock High, District 4, Board member Steve Glover

School for Science and Math (SSMV) Now Accepting Applications

The School for Science and Math at Vanderbilt (SSMV), a joint venture between Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Metro Nashville Public Schools, is currently accepting applications for the 2009-10 academic year. All MNPS 8th graders are eligible to apply. Applications are due Friday, Feb. 13.

The School for Science and Math serves Metro Nashville Public School students who have a passion for science and math. For four consecutive years, it immerses these students in the rich and dynamic scientific research environment of Vanderbilt University. Students attend SSMV classes one day per week and attend their regular high school the other four days. Students also participate in three consecutive summer study programs, which culminate in independent science research projects. The School is unique not only to our area, but also the nations. It gives students access to leading Ph.D. scientists, Nobel Prize winners, and some of the most innovative laboratory and field experiments available. For more information about how to apply visit <http://theschool.vanderbilt.edu> or call (615) 322-7132.

Finding Where You Fit – Online Resource

MNPS has launched a new campaign, *Finding Where You Fit*, to address the changes and choices offered through the new Student Assignment Plan, the new School Choice Plan, magnet/optional schools, as well as the federal requirement under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) to provide school choices to students attending a High Priority school. The district will be releasing maps, flyers, and various other printed materials in the coming weeks to help you better understand the changes and know what options are available. MNPS has also created a new section on the website that outlines all district changes, specific zone changes, and new options for families. To view this new section, visit www.mnps.org and click on the link under *Finding Where You Fit*.



This spring, there are several important dates you need to remember when planning for next school year. The dates are:

Reassignment Plan*

Feb. 2 – Feb. 27

Time period for choosing the grandfather option

Feb. 2 – March 31

Time period for choosing the zoned choice option

Open Enrollment

March 2 – March 31

NCLB Choice/Spring Offering*

Feb. 23 – March 20

*Not applicable to all families.

Hillwood Baseball Standout Awarded Scholarship

Stephen Crosby, a senior at Hillwood High, has been awarded a \$3000 scholarship from the Old Times Baseball Association. Crosby has been playing baseball since age 5; he plays first base, outfield, and pitches. Crosby will be attending UT Martin in the fall and majoring in Graphic Design. Congratulations!

Percy Priest Elementary Hosts Abraham Lincoln Presenter Dennis Boggs

Percy Priest Elementary School hosted "Meet Mr. Lincoln," an informative living history program by Abraham Lincoln presenter Dennis Boggs, Thursday, Feb. 5. During his presentation, Mr. Boggs presented an enlightening and educational look at the life of the 16th President -- as it might have been told by Abraham Lincoln himself. Boggs's "Meet Mr. Lincoln" program chronicled every part of Lincoln's life -- his boyhood in the Kentucky wilderness, his rise from storekeeper to self-taught lawyer and politician, his years as President during the Civil War, and finally, his tragic assassination. The program also featured many opportunities for student involvement, including a popular question and answer session. Mr. Boggs's visit to Percy Priest Elementary was funded by the Percy Priest PTO as part of the school's cultural arts program.

Mt. View Honor Society Induction

Mt. View Elementary School's first annual induction ceremony for the Mt. View Mountain Lions Chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society was held Feb. 5. At the ceremony, 16 students were inducted as new members. The new members are: Marjelin Garay, Daniel Beyene, Madonna Ghorial, Darius Edwards, Aliya Simmons, Kailyn Shockley, Mariam Girgis, Deja Moulden, Serena Sabchareun, Lainy Gates, Gabby Castellanos Jackson Switer, Caleb Pate, Camille Oglesby, and Courtney Martin.

To be eligible for membership, students must have an A/B grade point average. Additionally, candidates must demonstrate responsibility at home, at school, and in the community. Students from the 4th and 5th grades were evaluated and selected by the faculty council of the chapter. Congratulations to all who were selected!

MNPS Food Services Offers Heart Healthy Information

February is a special month – a time when we celebrate our loved ones and open our hearts to those special people in our lives. This month, MNPS Food Services is also focusing on your heart, offering some heart healthy tips that benefit all ages.

As many of you know, cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the number one killer in America. Every 34 seconds, someone in the U.S. dies from CVD. There are several ways to increase your heart health and decrease your risk of developing cardiovascular disease, including exercise and diet. First, find time each week to get moving and

increase your heart rate. Also, zero in on a healthier diet. Eat lean meats and whole grains, increase your fiber intake, decrease the amount of salt and sugar you consume, and lower your fat intake. If you want to increase your chances of successfully changing your lifestyle, make these changes with a buddy or your family. Research shows people are more likely to stick with a healthy diet and exercise plan when done with a friend.

The Met: HD Live in Schools

Saturday, Feb. 7, 100 MNPS high school choral students, along with their chorus teachers, will experience the Metropolitan Opera live in High Definition. Saturday's showing, the second in this year-long series, is Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*. The opera, broadcast out of New York City, will be shown in 18 school districts across the nation in effort to fully immerse students in the opera experience and integrate it into the classroom.

The Met: HD Live in Schools program brings the excitement of the Met stage to students across the country. The program is an important tactic in the Met's ongoing efforts to broaden the audience for opera and cultivate the next generation of opera lovers. *The Met: HD Live in Schools* program will include four broadcasts, free of charge to students, teachers and chaperones: Puccini's *La Rondine* and *Madama Butterfly* (Jan. 10), Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Feb. 7), Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* (March 7), and Rossini's *La Cenerentola* (May 9).

Participating MNPS schools have also received a professional development workshop and educator guides to help teachers integrate the program into the classroom as part of this program. For more information about the program, please visit www.metopera.org/education <<http://www.metopera.org/education>> .

MNPS Swimmers Headed to State Meet

Friday, Jan. 30, more than 1200 high school students from Middle Tennessee competed at the MTHSSA Regional Swim Meet. Of the 53 Metro School Students who participated in this meet, 24 swimmers qualified to advance on to the TISCA State Meet, which will be held in two weeks at the new UT Aquatics Center in Knoxville, TN. Students qualifying for the state meet include students from Hillsboro High (who placed 7th overall in the meet out of 54 participating teams), Hume-Fogg, and MLK.

Hillsboro Swimmers

Advancing:

DeAndre Baynham
 Hendrix Brakefield
 Ryan Jennings
 Keller Hawkins
 Casey Murphey
 (placed 3rd in two individual events)
 Sean Murphey
 Eleanor Phillips
 Brittany Pradham
 Jeremy Senn
 Rebecca Senn
 (placed 3rd in an individual)

Hume-Fogg Swimmers

Advancing:

Elizabeth Grainger
 Rachel Oakes
 Ashley Green
 Mallory Graves
 Anna Lee Crenshaw
 Kenneth "KC" Gordan
 Quinn Cowan
 Judd Cowan
 Jackson Lanier
 Justin Williams

MLK Swimmers

Advancing:

Erin Amlicke
 Katherine Booker
 Sydney Whitlock
 Symphony Hall



Rebecca Senn, of Hillsboro, signed with James Madison University. She is receiving a swimming scholarship.

Mt. View Cafeteria Celebrates 100 Days of School – and Lunch!



Thursday, Jan. 29, Mt. View Elementary celebrated 100 days of school and school lunch for the 2008-09 school year. The cafeteria celebrated by serving a nutritious lunch and decorated a bulletin board and the serving line with 100's. Students and workers wore hats with 100's, while teachers donned shirts decorated with 100's.

Percy Priest Students Jump Rope for Their Hearts

Students at Percy Priest Elementary School recently participated in Jump Rope for Heart, a national educational fundraising program sponsored by the American Heart Association and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance. During the week of Jan. 21, students jumped rope and raised \$6,149 to help the fight against heart disease and stroke.



Jump Rope for Heart engages elementary school students in jumping rope while raising funds to support lifesaving heart and stroke research. Students at Percy Priest raised money through donations from family and friends. They then participated in Jump-a-thons during Physical Education classes. Fourth grader Dylan Stepniewski was the school's top fundraiser, bringing in \$300 in donations. Congratulations Dylan, and all of the other students at Percy Priest for this wonderful fundraising effort.

Cane Ridge Gets Significant Investment



Friday, Feb. 6, Ole South Properties presented Cane Ridge High a \$5,000 check as an investment in the school's Career Academies. The investment, made possible by the John Floyd Charitable Foundation, is the beginning of what many hope to be a long-term partnership designed to better the academic offerings at Cane Ridge and increase public awareness of the many wonderful things happening within Metro public schools. Metro Councilman Sam Coleman and Mayor Karl Dean were on hand for the presentation, as was Ole South Properties Director of Sales and Marketing Trey Lewis and company owner John Floyd.

In addition to this initial monetary support, Old South Properties employees skilled in areas of finance, construction, marketing, and administration will be assisting teachers and students in the classroom as needed throughout the school year. Their assistance may come in a variety of forms including guest speakers or project assistance.

Metro-Kathryn C. Mitchell Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Andriana Johnson of JFK Middle and Donna Gunn of I.T. Creswell Middle for winning 1st and 2nd place (respectively) in the Metro-Kathryn C. Mitchell Spelling Bee. Andriana won for the correct spelling of poltergeist. Both students will go on to compete in the Davidson County Spelling Bee, Tuesday, Feb. 10.

Other Upcoming Events

Feb. 1 – 28	Black History Month
Feb. 2 – 27	Enrollment period for Student Assignment Grandfather Option
Feb. 2 – March 31	Enrollment period for Student Assignment Zoned Choice Option
Feb. 9	Deadline to register for Spring Community Education Classes
Feb. 10	Davidson County Spelling Bee
Feb. 13	School for Science and Math at Vanderbilt applications due
Feb. 16	In-service Day - Students Do Not Report
Feb. 23 – March 20	NCLB Choice Spring Offering (only pertains to certain schools, call 259-INFO for details)
March 2 – 31	Open Enrollment Period



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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