



Children First!

News & Information from Metro Nashville Public Schools

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Get involved in Tennessee’s pre-K movement!

This year, Gov. Bredesen has asked the Tennessee General Assembly to approve an additional \$25 million to continue the expansion of Tennessee’s voluntary, high-quality pre-kindergarten program. If approved, the state will be able to add 245 additional pre-K classrooms in the 2008-2009 school year. The more than 650 members of the Tennessee Alliance for Early Education (TAEE) are working hard to let their legislators know how important the expansion of pre-K in Tennessee is to the future of our state, and they want you to join them. Anyone can become a member by visiting www.prekfortn.com and clicking on “Show Your Support.” It’s free! Please send an e-mail to prekalliance@mpf.com for more details. The TAEE also invites everyone to attend the 2008 Pre-K Day on Capitol Hill next Wednesday, Feb. 27 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Smithsonian Scholars in MNPS Schools

Thursday, February 28 at 5:30 pm two Smithsonian Scholars will offer Glencliff and Antioch students a rare glimpse inside their fascinating careers. These schools are currently implementing the Ford Partnership for Advanced Studies (Ford PAS) curriculum. The event will be held at the Ford Theatre in the Country Music Hall of Fame.

The Smithsonian Scholars scheduled to speak are: Marilyn R. London, research collaborator in the department of anthropology at the National Museum of Natural History, and Tricia Edwards, education specialist at the Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation, National Museum of American History.

Ms. London is a skeletal biologist who has worked extensively in forensic anthropology and human identification. She is a member of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services D-MORT Team, which responds to mass disasters. After the terrorist attacks of September 2001,

she managed the morgue in Somerset, Pennsylvania, where the victims of Flight 93 were recovered.

Ms. Edwards is a former teacher who develops school and family programs related to invention and the creative process. Before joining the Lemelson Center, she was education director for the Baltimore Museum of Industry and worked for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund where she created a secondary school curriculum about the Vietnam War and implemented a national professional development program for teachers.

Ford PAS is an education program developed to engage and excite students in science, technology, business, engineering and math. Smithsonian Scholars in the Schools is a public education project in which the Institution's world-renowned scholars and researchers share their knowledge and enthusiasm for learning with school children.

For a complete list of events surrounding Ford Smithsonian Scholars in the Schools, visit www.mnps.org.

Antioch High Named “The Coolest of the Cool” and Headed to District Championships

Congratulations to **Antioch High School**, recently named “The Coolest of the Cool” by viewers of the Channel 4 News Cool Schools program. This program featured a different high school each week from all around the midstate area. In December, viewers were asked to vote for their favorite school featured during the fall semester, and Antioch was the winner. Feb. 19, Aaron Solomon, morning anchor at WSMV, presented the Bears with a special trophy for being middle Tennessee's Coolest School, and the school was again featured during Channel 4 News Today.

The Bears basketball team is adding to the school's new title, “The Coolest of the Cool,” as they head to the Regional Championships. This is the first time in Antioch High history that the team has won the District 12-AAA Title. The Bears take on Brentwood Saturday, Feb.23, at 7 p.m. in the Region 6-AAA quarterfinals.

Antioch Middle School Wrestling Champs

There must be something in the water in Antioch! Congratulations are also in store for the wrestling team at **Antioch Middle School** after winning first place in the city tournament. The team is coached by Ryan Feris, who is “one of the best in Metro,” according to Dr. Kraft, principal at Antioch Middle. The team will be recognized at an upcoming School Board Meeting.

Dan Mills students are “Making a Difference”

What happens when **Dan Mills** students tackle a slew of math problems? They raise \$3,934.80 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital! The students participated in St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Math-a-thon for the 6th year in a row, working math problems either on a computer or in a workbook. They asked family and friends to sponsor them for every problem worked or to give a donation. Dan Mills students prove they truly are making a difference.

Bordeaux Enhanced Option Elementary Reading Celebration Events

Thursday, Feb. 28 from 5:30 – 7, Bordeaux Enhanced Option Elementary invites students and their parents to Family Reading Night. Grade level teachers will break into small groups and demonstrate literacy aspects to parents such as guided reading and phonemic awareness. Reading Celebration Night will be held after each report card is issued. Students who have already

reached their year-end reading benchmarks are invited, along with their parents. Also, in honor of Read Across America Week, students will be encouraged to dress as their favorite book character.

MNPS Middle School Science Fair

The 2008 MNPS Middle School Science Fair opens Friday, Feb. 29. Student projects will be in the following categories: Physical Science, Life Science, Earth/Environmental Science, Research & Design/Engineering and Team projects. Fifth and sixth grade projects are judged together as are 7th/8th grade projects. The schedule is:

Friday, February 29, 2008

Registration and Project Set-up	3:00 - 5:45, MLKing Small Gym
Judging	6:00 - 9:00 PM

Saturday, March 1st

Projects open for public viewing	10:00 – 1:00 PM
5th/6th Grade Awards Ceremony	1:00 PM, MLK Auditorium
7th/8th Grade Awards Ceremony	1:30 PM, MLK Auditorium

McKissack Students Featured at TSU

Congratulations to fourth graders at **McKissack Elementary** whose artwork is currently on display at TSU's Hiram Van Gordon Gallery. The exhibit is a part of Black History Month. To view the artwork, visit the TSU Hiram Van Gordon Gallery located in Elliot Hall (The Women's Building). If you would like more information about the display or the Gallery, visit www.tnstate.edu/gallery.

Gallery hours are:

Monday/Friday, 9:30am-11:30pm and 1:30-3:30pm

Tuesdays/Thursdays from 9:30-11:30am

NSA Alumni in Primetime

Two former students of the **Nashville School of the Arts** are making their mark in the entertainment industry. Bradley Johnson (2001 graduate) just ended a run on Dance Wars: Bruno vs. CarrieAnn on ABC. Mr. Johnson, a member of Team CarrieAnn, made it to the final round of competition. Saaneah Jamison (2004 graduate) made it to Hollywood Week on American Idol, Season 7. Congratulations to both MNPS Alum.

Students Vie for a Chevy Cobalt

Five outstanding seniors from the middle Tennessee area will soon win a 2008 Chevy Cobalt, courtesy of the **Middle Tennessee Chevrolet Dealers** and the Tennessee Department of Education. The cars will be given away as part of the **"The Chevy Drive for Perfection"** perfect attendance program. Schools in 26 midstate counties, including Metro Nashville Public Schools, are participating. All high school seniors in the participating counties who achieve perfect attendance will be eligible for a drawing to receive one of five 2008 Chevrolet Cobalts. Students from both public and private schools are eligible to win. The promotion will run the entire school year and a drawing will take place in June 2008.

3rd Grade Class at Park Avenue Invited to State Legislature

Congratulations to Ms. Rose Carroll and her 3rd grade class at **Park Avenue Enhanced Option Elementary** for their special invitation to assist in promoting reading at the Tennessee

legislature. Their participation will be part of the “Read Across America” Celebration March 5 at 8:30 a.m.

Stratford Teacher Headed Abroad

Jennifer Berry-Rickert, a teacher at **Stratford High**, is headed overseas in March with the American Council for International Education. Mrs. Berry-Rickert will travel to Taganrog, Russia (16 hours by train from Moscow) where she will work to advance education, research, and mutual understanding between countries. American Council's mission is to foster democratic development and civil societies by advancing education and research, cultivating leadership, and empowering individuals and institutions through learning. If you would like to follow along on Mrs. Berry-Rickert's travels, visit her blog at <http://jenniferberryrickert.blogspot.com/>. She will be updating her blog throughout her trip.

Meigs Magnet Selected for Best Buy Award

Congratulations to **Meigs Magnet School**. A application submitted by James Parsons was selected to receive a \$2,000 Best Buy Teach™ Award. Along with a \$2,000 Best Buy Gift Card, the school received a 1 GB Geek Squad™ USB drive loaded with useful tools and templates for communication purposes.

Gladiators Win Big

Congratulations to **Gra-Mar Middle School** who recently won the Girls' and Boys' City Basketball Tournament. The Lady Gladiators beat Haynes Middle 39-38, finishing the season with a 19-1 record. The boys' team beat Goodlettsville Middle 55-48, finishing the season 18-2 with a 17 game winning streak. In addition to both teams' successes, two students received special honors: Tangela Crenshaw was named Miss Basketball for the entire Eastern Division, and Chris Willingham was named the City Tournament MVP. Also, special congratulations go out to both teams' coaches: Erika Bradley and Heather Smith, Lady Gladiators' Coaches, and Eric Bryson, Head Coach of the Gladiators.

Bellevue Middle Presents “Seussical, Jr.”

The **Bellevue Middle School Players** will be performing *Seussical, Jr.* on February 29th, March 1st, 7th, and 8th. The performances will be held in the Bellevue Middle School Theatre starting at 7:00 PM with an admission of \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. The student performance will be in celebration of the life and works of Theodore Geisel, Dr. Seuss, as part of Read Across America Week and in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday. Bellevue Middle invites everyone to join Horton the Elephant, Gertrude McFuzz, Mayzie La Bird, the Citizens of Who-ville, and even the Cat in the Hat for a musical trip into the world of Dr. Seuss.