



Children First!

News & Information from Metro Nashville Public Schools

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MNPS Celebrates Read Across America Week

Chadwell Elementary School will celebrate Read Across America Week Monday, March 3 with a special visit from Board Member Mark North. Dressed as the character "The Cat in the Hat," Mr. North will read to students. Each student will also receive a new book donated by the Chadwell PTO. Monday's celebration includes birthday cake for all students in honor of Theodore Geisel's (the creator and author of Dr. Seuss) birthday. Other guest readers are also expected during the week. As a little incentive for students, when the year's reading goal of 3,000 books is met, the school's principal, Clementine Chamberlain, will camp out in the lobby one day during the week of March 3-7.

Also in celebration of the award winning author and to celebrate reading, **Amqui Elementary** has a jam packed week of guest readers and activities. Students at Amqui will have the opportunity to participate in games that focus on reading, meet interesting guest speakers and readers, and dress as their favorite book character on Friday, March 7.

The celebration will begin on Monday, March 3 with a grand kick-off bash and a favorite hat day. The week's guests include: **Tony Brown** from the Tennessee Titans; **Forestine Cole** from the MNEA; **Andrea Conte**, First Lady of Tennessee; **Lelan Statom**, NewsChannel 5 Meteorologist; **Mark North**, Metro School Board Member; **Howard Gentry**, former Vice-Mayor; **Ozzie**, the Nashville Sounds Mascot; **Lin Hagen & Patty Pawlack**, Children's Librarians for Nashville Public Library; **Woody & Jim**, morning DJ's on 107.5; a member of the **Nashville Ballet**, and Amqui's very own reading specialist **Tia Tate** and her husband **Glenn Tate**. All guests will be reading and sharing information about their careers with Amqui's students. Staff and teachers will participate in the week's activities by decorating their classroom door to reflect their favorite children's book. Friday, the teachers, staff, and students will show their love of reading by dressing up as their favorite book character.

Dan Mills Elementary will also celebrate Read Across America Week with the following events: Monday, March 3, students will enjoy the Dr. Seuss Cafe from 8:15-1:00 in the school's

library; Wednesday, March 5, a professional story teller will visit students; and Thursday, March 6, the school will celebrate *Bingo for Books*, a special Family Night from 6 - 7 p.m.

Several Titans Cheerleaders will trade in their pom-poms for books Monday, March 3. **Bailey Middle School** will celebrate Read Across America Day from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. with several guest readers and actors. Students will enjoy special readings from the guests, who will include a couple of Tennessee Titans Cheerleaders.

Tenth graders at **Antioch High** will visit **Mt. View Elementary** 1st graders in celebration of Dr. Seuss's Birthday. The project will be two-fold: First, the 10th grade classes will create posters that illustrate a quote from the author of their choice. Then, the 10th graders will explain the quote and/or read a book to the students.

Glenview Elementary will celebrate Read Across America Week with "Leap Into Reading." Friday, Feb. 29 through Friday, March 7, Glenview will decorate doors and hallways with favorite author or book themes. Faculty and staff will read snippets of their favorite books during daily announcements and students will try to guess "Who is reading?" Winning guesses will be rewarded with a Dr. Seuss prize. Glenview will have daily book and character giveaways, and each day guests will read to the students. Daily activities at Glenview include:

- Friday, Feb. 29, students celebrate Leap Into Reading Day. Students will "leap into the duck pond" for free books.
- Monday, March 3, students and faculty will celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday. Students will attend a special assembly of singing, story reading, birthday cake, and "special events."
- Tuesday, March 4, students will enjoy Top Hat Tuesday. Students who have read at least one book will be given a multi-colored top hat to wear.
- Thursday, March 6 is Teacher Swap Thursday. Teachers will swap with another class to have story time.
- Friday, March 7 is Door to Door with Dr. Seuss. Each class will parade through the building to choose and vote for their favorite door and hallway. Winners will be given a pizza party.
- Glenview will end the special week with a school wide DEAR time.

Gra-mar Middle will also celebrate Read Across America Week with a variety of public officials, news anchors and other special guest reader visits. A few people currently scheduled to read to students are: Bill Purcell, former Nashville Mayor; Police Chief Ronal Serpas; Mark Gwyn of the TBI; Gregg Ellis, local drummer and producer; and Meryl Rose, Talk of the Town host.

Reading and Arby's Night at Norman Brinkley

Tuesday, March 4 **Norman Brinkley Elementary** invites students, parents and faculty to enjoy Reading and Arby's Night with Nashville Sounds Mascot, Ozzie! Also in attendance will be a special guest from the Edmondson Pike Library. It's a night of dinner and reading, free of charge! The fun begins at 5:30 p.m.

Norman Brinkley has three main events each year: Homework and Arby's Night, Math and Arby's Night, and Reading and Arby's Night. These are wonderful, positive events for both the

children and their parents. The school clown, Mr. Giggles, helps promote each night along with program coordinator, Joyce Matlock, Title One Teacher.

Also, special congratulations are in order for the students, parents and staff of Norman Binkley, who have come a tremendous way with parental involvement activities. The school's first event was attended by only 25 teachers, parents and students; that was in the fall of the 2005-2006 school year. This year, at Family Math and Arby's Night, the school had between 250 and 300 people in attendance.

Antioch Debaters Have Something to Say

The **Debate Team at Antioch High** recently competed in the Smokey Mountain Tournament. Schools from five states competed, and the tournament is considered a tough match by most. In all, roughly 700 students from around the region competed.

Antioch's Debate Team placed 3rd in Debate sweepstakes, winning a large trophy that is currently on display in the office at Antioch. Jonathan Kinnard and Corey Pitts posted a record of 7 wins and 1 loss to become the Semifinalists of the tournament. Mr. Pitts is currently talking with Carson Newman College concerning scholarship opportunities. Purvi Pream and Marlene Abdelnour had a record of 5 wins and 1 loss. Punam Patel and De'Antwaine Moye posted a record of 4 wins and 2 losses. Others in competition were Chase Jones and Scott McCareery, Chris Verble and Heley Overby. De'Antwaine Moye also received the 5th place award in Declamation. Corey Phillips took the fifth place Speakers Award in Debate.

These students will compete again Friday and Saturday, Feb. 29 and March 1 to qualify for the national tournament. Congratulations and Good Luck!

Goodlettsville Middle Celebrates Black History Month

Several fifth and eighth grade students and faculty at Goodlettsville Middle School participated in a Black History Celebration Monday, Feb. 25, to a crowd of more than 100 people. The program was filled with dancing, singing, poetry readings and a play. The program was organized by Kenlyn Seard, the 8th grade language arts/drama teacher and was a big hit with students, teachers, parents and everyone else in the audience.

Mt. View Elementary Tae Kwon Do Black Belt Ceremony

Wednesday, March 5, five Mt. View Elementary School students will receive their black belts in Tae Kwon Do, and 14 fifth grade students will receive their second degree black belts. The ceremony will take place at 9 a.m. in the Mt. View gym. The students met the black belt requirements after practicing the art for three to five years, as an elective part of their physical education curriculum. This program was approved by the Tennessee Department of Education in 1993 and is the only program in the state.

At the ceremony, students will demonstrate their knowledge and skill technique by performing nine forms (routines) and 25 self defense techniques. They will also demonstrate their creative martial arts skills by incorporating their own routines using music, gymnastics, tumbling and balance. Students will demonstrate focus, balance, confidence and power as they break three 10 inch pin boards, using foot and hand techniques of their choice. Sparring will be the final demonstration, where students will again exhibit balance, technique, strategy, control, safety, respect and sequential skills.

This will be the 12th class of black belts since the program began in 1993. The highlight of each black belt ceremony is the return of many former students who received their black belts while in elementary school. Mt. View expects more than 60 black belts to return and take part in the ceremony. Also to be honored will be Mt. View's fifth class of black belts who are now seniors in high school. These students have returned for ceremonies year after year and will graduate from high school as the Class of 2008.

The principal of Mt. View is Dr. Kimberly Fowler. The program instructor is Dr. Sue E. Abernathy, a 6th degree World Tae Kwon Do Federation black belt and physical education specialist. For more information about the ceremony, call 641-9393.

Nashville Big Picture High School Presents "Rip the Runway"

Tuesday, March 4 Nashville Big Picture High School invites you to "Rip the Runway," a student-run fundraising fashion show. From 7 – 9 p.m., students will walk the runway showcasing urban, dressy, casual and sporty attire.

The event was organized by a group of Big Picture students in one of the school's advisory group. As part of their assignment these students to create successful ways to raise money for the school. One group, comprised of female students, decided to host a fashion show in the school's auditorium. The group created flyers, made announcements at the school's daily, and even held auditions for models. Admission is \$5, and the best part is it is open to the public.

Jere Baxter Selected for Best Buy Award

Congratulations to **Sam Frey at Jere Baxter** for his selection 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.

Sylvan Park Read Me Week

Sylvan Park Elementary would like to extend a special thank you to State Representative Gary Odom for visiting the school and reading to several classes. The students thoroughly enjoyed hearing Mr. Odom read the books. Sylvan Park continued to celebrate reading for the rest of the week with guest readers from the Nashville Ballet and Richland Park Neighborhood Association, in addition to parents and friends who read to classes.

Gower Elementary Parent/Faculty Talent Show

Gower Elementary Music Department invites the public to the school's Parent/Faculty Talent Show which will be held Thursday, March 13. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. followed by the talent show at 7 p.m. Ralph Emery, television personality and Country Music Hall of Fame member, will serve as guest emcee. For more information contact the school at 353-2012.

Hillsboro High and University School Nashville Team Up for the KnitWits' Sale

Hillsboro High will hold their annual KnitWits' Sale Tuesday, March 11, at 6 p.m. at Threaded Bliss in Brentwood. This year, University School of Nashville signed on to make the project even bigger than previous years. All items are hand knitted by students from both schools. Sales will benefit Saigon Children's Charities, with funds specifically used to build schools and pay for the education of Vietnamese children.

Each item for sale comes with a tag that says "hand knit by a USN or HHS student." They make fantastic gifts with 100% profit going to the charity. All of the yarn is donated and the sale this year is sponsored by Threaded Bliss.