



Children First!

News & Information from Metro Nashville Public Schools

March 14, 2008

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Neely's Bend Celebrates Reading

Neely's Bend Middle School celebrated Read Across America day with 8th grade students visiting Neely's Bend Elementary and reading to K-4 and ELL students. NBMS will continue celebrating literacy with a read-a-thon competition to raise money for the library Friday, March 14 and will conclude this month with its first annual Family Reading Night. This event will be held Monday, March 27, from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. and will feature a "Poetry Cafe" presenting the poetic work of Neely's Bend students. Parents will have the opportunity to attend stations to learn how to help their students at home and receive an overview of the reading curriculum in MNPS. The public is invited to attend.

Antioch High AVID Program Takes Off

Antioch High School implemented the AVID Program (Advancement Via Individual Determination) for the first time this year. During the elective AVID class, students receive extra academic support through organizational skills, study skills, tutoring, test taking skills, college tours, speakers, community service and other skills.

This Spring, the AVID students of Antioch High School have participated in Tennessee State University's College and Career Fair where more than 50 colleges and universities were on hand to deliver information and enrollment requirements. In February, the students participated in Gaylord Opryland Resort & Hotel Job Shadow Day. The students were paired with an employee where they perform the job duties for that day. In addition to gaining practical work experience, students learned the value of hourly wage, work schedule, vacation, health, dental and retirement benefits. This was a valuable introduction to the work force for Antioch's 80 ninth grade AVID students.

In March, Antioch's AVID students were selected to participate in the Smithsonian Institute Inventors Program. Students developed an invention which would assist people with an everyday

need. The Smithsonian committee cited that the student inventions were a huge success, and they were amazed at the organized work of the teachers and staff in Metro. On behalf of AVID, Antioch High would like to extend their sincere appreciation for all those who lend their services to education.

Percy Priest Elementary's 2nd Annual Family Math Night

Friday, Feb. 29, **Percy Priest Elementary** held its second annual Family Math Night. This popular event focused on the many ways people "count" every day, proving that math really is an important part of everyday life. Hundreds of students and parents visited six different themed rooms, including the Sportzone, where they were able to test their athletic skills and make their own trading cards; Plato's Academy, where they learned the history of mathematics; and Math on the Internet, where guests were able to explore child-friendly math websites. Even toddlers were able to join the fun, in the Mini-Math Childcare room. Parent volunteers, along with volunteers from JT Moore Middle School, Hillsboro High School, David Lipscomb High School and Lipscomb University all worked together to make the event fun and educational for everyone.

Friends of Metro School Recruiting Members

Friends of Metro Schools held a public launch, Thursday, March 13, at Dan Mills Elementary. Parents, business leaders and faith leaders spoke at a press conference about the importance of public support for our schools.

Friends of Metro Schools is an independent, grassroots advocacy organization devoted to making Metro Schools a top budget priority for local and state elected officials. Led by the Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship, Stand for Children, and the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, membership in Friends of Metro Schools is open to individuals and organizations who pledge to speak out on issues impacting education funding.

Visit www.stand.org/friendsofmetroschools for more information and sign up for a free membership.

Famous Storyteller Visits JT Moore Middle

Donald Davis, nationally known storyteller and author, will be with John Trotwood Moore Middle School students March 31 and April 1. He will tell his original stories to all grade levels during the school day March 31 and will teach narrative writing April 1. The community is invited to hear him Tuesday evening, April 1 in the J. T. Moore library. The event is called "An Evening Hour with Donald Davis" and will begin at 7 p.m. There is no admission charge for the event.

Shwab Elementary Celebrates "Read Me Week" March 3 - March 7

Shwab Elementary kicked off Read Me Week, Monday, March 3, with a full assembly and a reading by Family School Coordinator and Title One Chair, Ginny Cox. The reading was brought to life when Principal Diana Brooks; reading specialist Julia Stewart; literacy leader Paula Poag; and librarian Tina Fry performed a skit simultaneous to the reading.

Throughout the week, classrooms focused on the importance of reading and the positive effect it can have on your life. Students, faculty and staff all pledged to read at least five books individually. A variety of books from different genres and authors were read throughout the building.

Thursday, March 6, a special guest, Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey, joined the Shwab family and discussed how reading was a great way to learn about life. Lt. Gov. Ramsey stated that education was very important and he encouraged the students to do their best in all they do. As a treat, Ramsey read Dr. Suess' "I Can Read with My Eyes Shut." After the reading, a fourth grade student presented Ramsey with a book. Trellaney Lane, fourth grade teacher, presented Lt. Gov. Ramsey with a lapel pin to remind him of his day with Shwab.

That evening families came to the school for "Family Read Night," dressed in their pajamas and eager to hear stories and see celebrities such as Clifford the Big Red Dog and The Cat in the Hat. Families rotated throughout the building listening to stories and received books and a snack.

Hermitage Elementary Art Show

Thursday, March 27, **Hermitage Elementary** will host the 2nd Annual School-Wide Art Show in the main hallway. Artwork from the entire school will be showcased. Students have worked very hard on their projects and are excited to display them. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call Hermitage Elementary Art Teacher Julie O'Brien at 885-8858 ext. 1104.

Moore Chess Team Victory

Congratulations to J.T. Moore students James Wu, Shane Franklin, Gene Li, and Ivan and Pavel Velkovsky, who competed as a team in the Regional Qualifying Chess Tournament last Saturday. They took second place in the Middle Tennessee Region which makes them state finalists and qualifies them to play in the State Championship Tournament later this month.

Spring is Here! So Let's Dance!

Hillwood is having its first all-school dance in more than two years. The dance will be held Friday, March 28, from 7 – 10:30 p.m. in the big gym at Hillwood. Proceeds from the dance will go toward the Spring Prom.

Club Crazy from FADDS Entertainment's has been hired to DJ the event. They will bring giveaways including t-shirts, CD's and passes to local businesses. Hillwood will also have other door prizes, and there will be a dance-off on the lighted dance floor between all four grade-levels.

Congressional Art Competition

Each high school in the 5th District is invited to participate in "An Artistic Discovery," the annual nationwide Congressional High School Art Competition. Schools will be receiving a letter of invitation, along with a packet of information and competition rules. The deadline for submissions is May 2008. The winner's artwork will join the work of other high school artists from across the nation at a yearlong public exhibit in the corridor leading from the House office buildings to the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

This nationwide art competition was initiated by members of the U.S. House of Representatives' Congressional Arts Caucus in 1982. This contest has given more than 650,000 high school students the opportunity to express their artistic talents in a variety of styles, including painting, drawing, prints, photography and computer-generated art. Each Congressional District hosts its own competition. For more information, contact Kathy Buggs at 615-736-5295 or email

Kathy.buggs@mail.house.gov. Or visit
http://www.cooper.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=13.

Hillwood's "Penny Wars" Raise \$535 to Benefit Tornado Victims

The Hillwood Red Cross Club raised \$535 for victims of the West Tennessee tornadoes through Penny Wars. Juniors raised the most money, closely followed by the senior class. The donation will be made to the American Red Cross later this spring. The Tennessean had a great article about this effort that can be read by clicking here:

<http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080307/MICRO020303/803070397/1555>

Goodlettsville Elementary Students On Board the VSBA Float Parade

Goodlettsville Elementary students will be campaigning for their favorite book on the Volunteer State Book Award (VSBA) by participating in the VSBA Float Parade March 28. Each class in grades K-3 will design and create a float representing one of the books on this year's VSBA reading list. Students will parade through the school advertising the book their class has selected. School-wide voting will take place later in the day.

The Volunteer State Book Award is a children's choice award voted on by children throughout Tennessee, and is jointly sponsored by the Tennessee Association of School Librarians (TASL) and the Tennessee Library Association (TLA). This year's winning book will be announced at the spring TLA conference and the winning authors will be honored at TASL's annual fall conference.

Students Learn Basics of Conflict Management

Interacting effectively with others and resolving disagreements are necessities for personal and business success. This past week, a small group of students from **Maplewood High School** visited Lipscomb University's Institute for Conflict Management to learn about these subjects. The experience will help students as they navigate through communications challenges in their communities, work places and learning environments.

Hillwood Chemistry Club Reaches Out

The Chemistry Club at **Hillwood High**, sponsored by Anna Selby, recently visited a Pre-K classroom at Charlotte Park Elementary as an outreach project. The students did some demonstrations and experiments with the children. Photos from the event are at the following the link <http://photoshow.comcast.net/watch/tv6cG7yS>.