

Children First!

News & Information from Metro Nashville Public Schools

May 11, 2007

Invitation to MNPS Parents of Students Receiving Special Education Services

Hear an end-of-the-year special education report and learn about future plans as you meet and talk to Sharon Wright and Kaye Rackard, Directors of Special Education, and other key special ed administrative staff at Town Meeting May 16 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Parents and family members can ask questions, share comments and recommendations; and receive materials and information about MNPS Special Education services. The meeting will be held in the Board of Education Meeting Room, 2601 Bransford Ave. (park in the back by the customer service entrance). Light refreshments will be served, so please RSVP to Charlene Comer, 259-8698 or charlene.comer@mnps.org.

Sign up for summer learning and fun

MNPS Visual and Fine Arts Department is holding its first ever Summer Forensics Camp at the Nashville School of the Arts July 23-27 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:45 p.m. The camp is for students who will be in grades 7-12 in 2007-08 school year and to qualify, students must commit to all five days of the camp.

The program is a comprehensive overview of forensic debate and speech arts categories. Students will be immersed in content research, creativity and executive skills associated with public speaking, oral interpretation, debate, and broadcasting. Application deadline is May 20, 2007. For more information, contact John Newsome at 291-6600 ext.121.

These Crocs are made for walking at Rosebank

More than 600 little feet will get measured and shod in brand-new Crocs when Soles4Souls visits Rosebank Elementary May 22.

With the assistance of teacher John Yount, Rosebank is participating with the nationally recognized non-profit group which provides footwear to outstanding students and other individuals around the world.

The shoe-fitting marathon is set for 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. When complete, each student, teacher and staff member will sport a new pair of the trendy shoes. As always, every Metro school is grateful to all the wonderful community partners who help us help students.

¡Felicidades! Estudiantes de Metro Schools Seleccionados entre los Mejores en Competencia de Español

A group of winning students from Croft Middle and Hume-Fogg Magnet High will know at a glance that the title above translates as: “Congratulations! Metro students selected among the best in Spanish competition.”

Five students brought home top honors in this year’s National Spanish exams by placing in the top five places and qualifying as State Winners. The students were instructed by Stephanie Burnett at Croft and Patsy Lanigan at Hume-Fogg.

- **Spanish I Outside Experience:** 1st place: Kausha Luna, Croft. 3rd place: Rocio Guerrero, Croft.
- **Spanish III Outside Experience:** 1st place: Francis Cambroner, Hume-Fogg.
- **Spanish IV Bilingual:** 3rd place: Dany Flores, Hume-Fogg.
- **Spanish V Regular:** 5th place: Stacia Sweafford, Hume-Fogg.

MLK students shine at science and engineering fair

Students from M.L. King Magnet High captured more than 40 awards this year’s Middle Tennessee Science and Engineering Fair at Austin Peay State University.

In the seventh grade category, James Clute placed first, Lauren Lu placed second and Troie Journigan and Alexa Romersa tied for third, while John McNiell and Katie Solomon tied for Honorable Mention.

Among eighth-graders, Lucas Delheimer placed first, Brandon Tansil and Aaron Broder tied for second and Kayla Saito placed third. Sarah Deel and Amanda Mouser won third place in the Team Projects category.

The students placing first and second in both the seventh and eighth grade were selected to enter their projects in the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge.

At the high school level, senior Monica Guan was awarded second place in the Engineering division. Junior Hairan Zhu placed third in the Biochemistry division.

Four years of hard works pays off with college scholarships

Fourteen Stratford seniors have been already been admitted to UT-Knoxville – and they won’t have to worry about paying tuition. Stratford is one of six UT-K “Promise Scholarship” recipient schools in Metro, meaning that UT-K promises to pay the tuition for any Stratford student who is admitted to that college. Hats off to these hard-working students!

Stratford Teacher Selected for Distinguished Fellowship on Capitol Hill

The Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowships have selected Jennifer Berry-Rickert, PhD, a teacher of biology, chemistry, and AP environmental science at Stratford High as one of seventeen teachers chosen from a nationwide pool of applicants to receive an Einstein Fellowship.

The Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program offers public or private elementary and secondary mathematics, technology, and science teachers with demonstrated excellence in teaching an opportunity to serve in the national public policy and education arenas. Jennifer Berry-Rickert has been selected for a Fellowship on Capitol Hill, in Washington, D.C.

Pearl-Cohn teacher selected for summer study program

Kay Gragg, a teacher from Pearl-Cohn High, has been selected from a national applicant pool to attend one of 21 summer study opportunities supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Endowment is a federal agency that supports summer seminars and institutes at colleges and universities so teachers can study with experts in humanities disciplines.

Gragg will participate in a seminar entitled "Writing Africa: Comparative African and Western 'Palavers' and Perspectives." The three-week program will be held at Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant and directed by Dr. Maureen N. Eke, Professor of English.

The 15 teachers selected to participate in the program each receive a stipend of \$2,400 to cover their travel, study and living expenses.

Legislators recognize outstanding teacher

MNPS reading specialist Yolanda Taylor-Statom has honored with a proclamation from the Tennessee State Senate. The recognition was sponsored by State Senator Thelma Harper for Taylor-Statom's work in Metro schools and her selection as the current Teacher of the Year at Stratton Elementary – her third Teacher of the Year honor in Metro Schools.

MNPS Supports Dolly Parton's Imagination Library & the League of Extraordinary Teens

Can a monthly book delivery to our youngest children impact their formal education? Yes! Children who learn to love reading and books during their earliest years are far more likely to read at grade level – and therefore more likely to succeed in school as they progress to graduation and college.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library mails one new, age-appropriate, hardcover book every month to children from birth to age five – at no cost to the family and regardless of income. Any child in Tennessee can be registered to receive his very own library of up to 60 books. The cost of the program (just \$27 per child, per year) is split evenly between Governor's Books from Birth Foundation and a sponsoring organization in every Tennessee county. In Davidson, Williamson and Sumner counties, the Imagination Library is sponsored by Vanderbilt Children's Hospital.

The League of Extraordinary Teens financially and logistically supports the Imagination Library and inspires involvement in the program by rewarding young people age 13-19. Among other acknowledgements, students can receive a certificate of League membership signed by Governor Phil Bredesen, and can note this significant accomplishment on college applications.

For information on the Imagination Library in Middle Tennessee, or to register a child online, visit www.VanderbiltChildrens.com/booksfrombirth, call (615) 936-3554, or email read.books@vanderbilt.edu.

For information on the Governor's League of Extraordinary Teens, visit www.GovernorsFoundation.org/teens or call 1-877-99-BOOKS.