



Children First!

News & Information from Metro Nashville Public Schools

December 7, 2007

MLK gym to be named for former coaches

The gymnasium of Martin Luther King Jr. Magnet High School at Pearl High will be renamed tonight in honor of two former and beloved coaches for Pearl High School. The Gupton-Ridley Gymnasium will honor the contributions of William J. Gupton, boys' basketball coach at Pearl High from 1938 to 1960; and Cornelius Ridley, boys' basketball coach at Pearl, Maplewood and Whites Creek High Schools, who served the district 35 years. Coach Gupton led his teams to 11 state championships and Coach Ridley led teams to five state championships. Ridley also served as a member of the Board of Public Education. Families of the former coaches will receive the posthumous honor.

New Strategic Plan now posted on the MNPS website

MNPS' new 2007-2014 Strategic Plan, approved by the Board in November, is now available through a link on the home page of the school district's website. The plan was developed through a months-long process that included hundreds of volunteer hours from community members and MNPS staff. It will serve as a road map to guide district decisions in the coming years. Plans for future curriculum, staffing and programs will all be compared to the goals in this plan prior to being implemented. To learn more, go to www.mnps.org.

Mayor Dean, Public Works to Unveil Student Art on Waste Collection Trucks

Mayor Karl Dean, Metro Public Works and Red River Service Corporation will host a public viewing of winning student artwork from the "Beautiful Nashville Says 'NO' to Trashville" art contest. The unveiling will be Saturday, Dec. 8, at 10 a.m. at LP Field. The contest, a program for all Metro public elementary third and fourth graders, encourages students to care for the community environment and to express that commitment creatively through art. The winning 61 entries in the contest were selected for display on the sides of city waste trucks. Thirty-one public elementary schools participated this year.

In addition, three 4th graders from Una, Bordeaux and Gower elementary schools have been named grand prize winners for the contest. Selected by a panel of Metro Council and Metro Arts Commission members, each winner will receive funds for their school's art department and their artwork will be featured in Metro's second annual citywide environmental education campaign. Ben Phosarath of Una Elementary School is the first place winner; Samson Gaynon of Bordeaux Elementary Enhanced Option School is the second place winner, and Nailah Raab, Gower Elementary, third place winner. Each student will receive \$1,500, \$1,000 and \$500, respectively, for their school's art departments.

Community invited to a 'Divine Evening' at Pearl Cohn High

The Fine Arts Department of Pearl Cohn Comprehensive High School will present a "Divine Evening of Music and Art" on Thursday December 13 @ 6 p.m. at the school's auditorium. This program will showcase the highest caliber of musicianship of students from the piano and choral music department and the artistic talents of students in the art department. For further information you can contact Mr. Peter at 329-8150 x 1241. Pearl Cohn is located at 904 26th Ave. North.

Rose Park teacher receives national certification

Kyle Alexander, a 7th and 8th grade teacher social studies teacher at Rose Park Magnet Middle School, has received National Board Certification. This certification is the result of much hard work by Alexander and is an honor not only for him, but also for Rose Park and MNPS.

Nashville School of the Arts announces admission schedule for 2008-09

Entrance to Nashville School of the Arts follows a slightly different path than the process for other MNPS magnet/optional schools. Here is the process for admission to NSA for 2008-2009:

Applications will be available Dec. 17.

Applications are due at NSA (not the Magnet Office) Jan. 7.

Auditions will be held Jan. 21, 8-3:30 and Jan. 22, 3-8 p.m.

Entrance to NSA is not tied to the magnet/optional school lottery set for Feb 16.