

# SPARTAN SPEAK

MOUNTAIN BROOK HIGH SCHOOL  
PTO NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER  
2010

## Words of Wilson...



*A message from  
Principal  
Vic Wilson*

Greetings,

I hope this letter finds all of you enjoying the time of the year. We are working very hard to complete the final two weeks of the first semester – time has certainly flown by! It seems like only yesterday that we hosted our open house, and now we are preparing for semester exams.

We have had many wonderful events occur since our last newsletter. Our debate team continues to win wherever they go and in all three phases. This week we will have outstanding choral and band concert performances. Both groups do an excellent job performing for the public and for the student body. If you get a chance, try to see both groups. Check the website for dates.

Congratulations to the Cross Country teams for winning the State championship! Both girls and the boys won the championship in early November. Congrats to Coach Echols, Coach McGovern, and all the athletes. Also, the football team just finished a great season as well. They made it to the 6A semi-finals. Congrats to Coach Yeager, the staff, and the team for a great job! Also, congrats to Coach Martin and the cheerleaders and to Dr. Blanton and the band for a great year as well!

Other groups have also excelled. Our drama department worked very hard on the Trumbauer play, *The Laramie Project*. They performed and won with this play at the district competition. After performing for the student body, the group traveled to Florence for the State competition first weekend in December. Several cast mates won competitions and the group earned Best in Show. Congrats to the entire cast and to Pat Yates and Gary Weatherly for their hard work in leading our young actors.

Basketball and wrestling are now in full swing and both groups are doing well. The boys and girls basketball teams are both ranked in the top 10. Coach Tillman and the wrestling team are having a great season thus far. I will include an update in the January newsletter. Check the website for competition times and locations.

I also want to say a word of thanks to the PTO for all of their hard work and effort on behalf of MBHS. Thanks to your efforts, we will be able to increase our security around the building, enhance our library, and continue our research efforts in the English department. Thanks for all you do!

I encourage you to talk with your student about the importance of finishing the semester completely. It can be a stressful time of the year with so many things due and to do. However, it can also be very productive if everyone will take the time to work when necessary, play when possible, and rest when needed. Be careful during the time off and enjoy your holiday season.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vic Wilson".

## SPARTAN PTO PRIDE...

Hang in there! It's almost here! Things are hopping at the high school, but we will all soon have a well-deserved break to enjoy time with our families. Happy holidays!

I hope you were able to attend our PTO meeting this month. The December meeting is always one of my favorites. Dwight Brown's *Women's Choir* and *Legacy* (the girls' version of A Bunch of Guys) got us all in the holiday spirit. Vic Wilson recognized the 13 National Merit Scholar semi-finalists and 21 commended students. That's 34 students – or 10% of the graduating class! Outstanding! The talent in our school is amazing! We certainly have some hardworking, passionate students ... and I'd like to think our parents play a part in their successes too. Well done!

A few weeks ago Vestavia hosted the annual Mt. Brook and Vestavia Hills Joint Legislative Roundtable. We are fortunate to have State legislators who are dedicated to our school. Senators Jabo Waggoner and Slade Blackwell and Representatives Paul DeMarco and Greg Canfield addressed issues that are important to education. This year's topics were: Proration, Ethics Reform, a possible state law on texting while driving, National Common Core Standards, Uniform Calendar Legislation, Federal Stimulus Dollars for Education/BP Disaster Relief Funds, PACT and suggestions for Effective Advocacy. Our legislators depend on good communication from their constituents and very much want to hear from each of you. Please feel free to contact them to express your opinions. Thank you to our Legislative Committee Chair Gina Cox for working with Principal Wilson and PTO Council Vice President Cathy Luckie to be sure that issues that are most important to MBHS were addressed.

We are already planning for next year's PTO Executive Board. Thank you so much to Paige Lee (Chairman), Lane DeWine, Emily Curran, Cathy Luckie, and Vera Britton for serving on our Nominating Committee. If you are interested in serving or would like to nominate someone to serve as a PTO officer next year, please call or email one of these ladies. The slate of officers will be presented at our February meeting.

**Thank you so much for all you do to keep Mountain Brook schools great!** Our kids, our teachers and administrators appreciate that your commitment makes MBHS not just good but great!

We do not have a PTO meeting in January, but look forward to meeting again February 3<sup>rd</sup>. See you then!

Wishing all the best in 2011!

Gratefully yours,

*CARMEN MORROW*

PTO President



**Mountain Brook High School Theatre** earned Best in Show (3<sup>rd</sup> in State), and Best Ensemble at the 2010 State Trumbauer Competition, held at the University of North Alabama. MBHS cast performed “The Laramie Project”. Mrs. Pat Yates was named Alabama Secondary Theatre Teacher of the Year.

The individual winners include:

**Monologues:**

**Katie Cannon -- 2nd in State (Contemporary Comedic Solo)**

**Camille Smith -- 3rd in State (Classical Monologue)**

**Ali Bloomston -- All Star Cast (for one acts)**



**Duets:**

**Maddie Phillips & Sam Gerontakis -- 1st in State Comedic Musical Duo**

**Students earning superiors on their individual event during the competition:**

Duet Readers Theatre Comedic: **Meryum Tunagur and Claire Smith**

Duet Readers Theatre Comedic: **Liz Ann Terry & Emily Siegal**

Solo Female Contemporary Dramatic: **Liz Ann Terry, Lilly Lanter, Merym Tunagur**

Solo Female Contemporary Comedic: **Catherine Pitman and Emily Siegal**

Solo Classical Dramatic: **Sarah Tompkins**

Duet Acting Contemporary Comedic: **Stephen Campbell and Ben Flax**

Solo Musical Female Comedic: **Bailey Edmonds, Maddie Phillips, Ali Bloomston**

Solo Musical Female Dramatic: **Catherine Pitman and Julia Gannon**

Duet Musical Comedic: **Bailey Edmonds and Joey Weed**

Duet Pantomime: **Elizabeth Perkinson and Sara Anne Stringfellow**

Duet Pantomime: **Courtney Morgan & Barbara Sandlin**

**The Laramie Project cast included:**

Ali Bloomston, Stephen Campbell, Ben Flax, Sam Gerontakis, Mark Hammontree, Lilly Lanter, Elizabeth Perkinson, Julia Gannon, Sterling Street, Charles Butterworth, Katie Cannon, Bailey Edmonds, Sloan Gleiss, McKenzie Marion, Courtney Morgan, Maddie Phillips, Parker Pippin, Catherine Pitman, Barbara Sandlin, Emily Siegal, Camille Smith, Claire Stephens, Sara Anne Stringfellow, Liz Ann Terry, Meryum Tunagur, Sarah Tompkins and Drew Willoughby.



**ATTN: Students and Parents**  
**FROM: MBHS College Advisor**  
**RE: College Admissions**

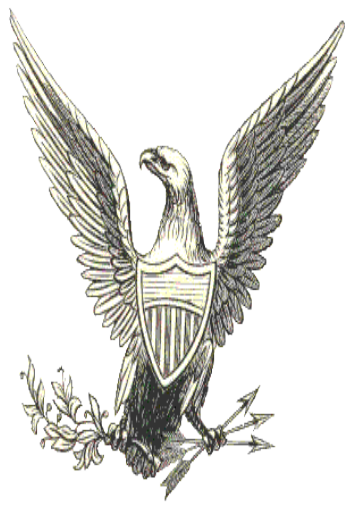


## January 2011

This year's College Admission Workshop will be held on January 20 & 21, 2011. Please mark your calendar. Admission professionals from several colleges and universities will discuss the college search and application process. This program is designed for sophomores and juniors. Watch for more information about the workshop when we return to school in January.

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PSAT/NMSQT results will be given to juniors and sophomores on Monday, December 14, 2009. Results will be given directly to students and not mailed.



### Selective Service

Please remember that the Military Selective Service Act requires all males to register with the Selective Service within 30 days of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

### The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Test (ASVAB)

The ASVAB will be administered at MBHS on Tuesday, February 1, 2011, to interested juniors and seniors. This test is not limited to persons joining the military, and it can help test-takers explore and focus attention on possible careers. Students interested in ROTC Scholarships also may take the ASVAB. Please sign up for the ASVAB in the Guidance Office. For more information, call Guidance Counselor Ellanor Dukes at 414-3860.





**Extended Time ACT**

The Extended Time ACT will be administered on Saturday, February 12, 2011, at Mountain Brook High School. This is not a National Test Date. This is a special school testing date for students who qualify. The application deadline is Thursday, January 6, 2011, for students with or without an IEP in order for ACT to review the documentation. In order to process a student's application for Extended Time ACT, the Test Coordinator must have appropriate documentation (within the past three years) on file. For additional information, please call Katrina McGuire (Special Education/Learning Disabilities) or Angela Stowe (ADD, ADHD and/or other special testing circumstances).

Seniors and juniors who need to take the ACT or the SAT Reasoning Test should remember the following deadlines. (Please note that SAT Subject Tests are given on most, but not all, SAT Reasoning Test dates, so check the College Board website or the SAT registration packet if you need to take Subject Tests.) For more information contact Ellanor Dukes, MBHS 12th grade counselor at: [dukese@mtnbrook.k12.al.us](mailto:dukese@mtnbrook.k12.al.us).

ACT Test	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
February 12, 2011	January 17, 2011	January 21, 2011
April 9, 2011	March 4, 2011	March 18, 2011
June 11, 2011	May 6, 2011	May 20, 2011
SAT Test	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
January 22, 2011	December 23, 2011	January 7, 2011
March 12, 2011	February 11, 2011	February 25, 2011
May 7, 2011	April 8, 2011	April 22, 2011
June 4, 2011	May 6, 2011	May 20, 2011



Spring Test Dates	Alabama High School Exam
Monday, February 28 (Testing Schedule)	Reading - 10 <sup>th</sup> graders & all students who have not passed.
Tuesday, March 1 (Testing Schedule)	Language - 10 <sup>th</sup> graders & all students who have not passed.
Wednesday, March 2 (Testing Schedule)	Social Studies - 10 <sup>th</sup> graders & all who have not passed.
Thursday, March 3 (Regular Schedule)	Biology - All students who have not passed.
Friday, March 4 (Regular Schedule)	Math - All students who have not passed.



## Let us know...



Parents are encouraged to let the counselors know if their teenagers are experiencing undue stress or other difficulty in their lives. Parents may request this information be passed on discreetly to a student's teachers, so they can better understand the challenges with which the student is dealing. The counseling staff will be glad to reach out to any student who might benefit from counseling but who might not come in voluntarily.

## Grief and Holidays...



Holidays can be an especially difficult time for those who have experienced the death of a loved one. The missing presence of the loved one is undeniable. Students are not distracted from their grief by school demands. Holidays are a time for friends to be understanding, acknowledge the loss and to be there for each other, even if it is painful.

Often the feelings of loss at a holiday or birthday time are as potent as they ever were, even if the loss occurred many years ago. It is very important for friends and relatives to be patient with those experiencing grief and to know how to support them or get them help. **For more information, call the UAB Amelia Center at: 251-3430. This 24 hour center is dedicated entirely to grief counseling.** Its mission is to assist people who are grieving, as well as friends and family members trying to help. The goal is to take the time necessary to help people navigate their way through grief toward healing and restructuring lives without the loved one.



We support them;  
they support us...



### WE SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS

Dyron's Lowcountry Restaurant is proud to announce a new program to benefit the Mountain Brook Schools.

Every Tuesday, we'll be giving 10% of our net proceeds to the Mountain Brook PTO that gets the most votes in the restaurant.

All you have to do is eat at Dyron's Lowcountry on Tuesdays and write the name of the school you support on the restaurant copy of your receipt.

Every week, the PTO that gets the most votes will receive a donation from Dyron's.

PLENTY FOR EVERYONE

LOWCOUNTRY AND COASTAL FAVORITES

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AND SUNDAY BRUNCH

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205.834.8257

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Ask for them at the MBHS front desk –  
every dollar spent will help fund school endeavors!

