

SPARTAN SPEAK

MOUNTAIN BROOK HIGH SCHOOL
PTO NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2011

Words of Wilson...



*A message from
Principal
Vic Wilson*

Hello,

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the middle of February? It seems like only yesterday, we were meeting for Open House, and now we are getting ready for Spring Break! Before we know it, we will be taking AP exams, final exams, and getting ready for summer. A quick walk through the MBHS mall might find a few students who are ready for summer now.

We have had a very successful beginning to the 2nd semester. Wrestling will compete in the sectional tournament Feb 10-11, at Trussville. Coach Tillman has done an outstanding job with the team this year. Also, our girls basketball team finished the regular season as the area leader. Congrats to all involved in the girls and boys programs, and good luck on a chance to make the state tournament.

We have also had continued success with our debate team as they continue to win events at all locales. Evan McCarty and Lee Quinn won the Policy division at Emory. They became the second team for the state of Alabama in the 56 year history of this competition to win this event. The team hosted the Mountain Brook High School's Betty Gunn Tournament last weekend and it was a great success. Good luck to Mr. Roberts and Mrs. McLure on a great finish to a wonderful season.

We also just finished the Miss Olympian Pageant. It was GREAT! Everyone involved in the event did a wonderful job. We have so much talent at MBHS and the pageant is a great way to showcase the talents of the contestants and those who wowed us between numbers. Thanks to Mrs. Covington, Mrs. Rozell, Mrs. Benson, Mr. Weatherly, and the entire Olympian Staff for a job well done. Also, congratulations to our 2011 Miss Olympian, Abby Rose.

We have a busy schedule leading up to Spring Break. We have 9 week testing and AHSGE testing during the first two weeks of March. Please check the website to make sure you know the dates for the late start to school for AHSGE. We also have soccer, tennis, golf, baseball, softball, track, and lacrosse starting up soon. Good luck to all of our students as they work hard to be the best they can be in all endeavors.

Let me end by restating how exciting it is to be the principal at MBHS! I love working with all stakeholders in Mountain Brook! I am very excited about being a part of the continued success we will have at MBHS. As always, I am here if you need to call, come by, or email.

Warmest regards,

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

SPARTAN PTO PRIDE...

Happy February! As I write this, they are mentioning the “s” word again in the forecast ... “snow!” Our principal, Vic Wilson, was incredibly considerate as he scheduled the necessary makeup days. Please check the high school website for the amended school calendar and the revised exam schedule. Students should communicate with their teachers if they would like to reschedule an exam. Many thanks also to our superintendent, Dicky Barlow, and the other members of the weather alert team at the central office. You would be shocked to know how many people are involved in making the decision to cancel or shorten a school day as a result of bad weather. Our children’s safety is their top priority.

The annual College Admissions Workshop held in January was another success. Many thanks to our College Admissions Counselor Karen Svetaly for coordinating the event. This was a great opportunity for you and your child to gather real information regarding the college admissions process. Thanks also to committee chair Martha Elliott and co-chair Leigh Anne Philips for organizing an army of PTO volunteers for the event. Thank you especially to Catherine and Rodger Smith for hosting the lovely luncheon honoring our guest speakers.

All schools (including MBHS!) will participate in Spring Online Registration this year. This will only be the data collection/information updating portion of registration. Class schedules and any fees will be handled at the high school at the end of the summer as usual.

If you made it to our February meeting then you enjoyed getting updated on the latest resources for technology and technology safety in our school system. MBCS Technology Director Donna Williamson has a wonderful way of educating us on an important topic and keeping us in stitches all at once. I’m just happy to now know what a “cloud” is and that our students are safe working within their very own MBCS cloud.

We have an outstanding slate of officers for next year. Many thanks to Paige Lee and the nominating committee for their hard work. The slate was presented at our February meeting. Please see the list posted in this issue.

I look forward to seeing you on Thursday, March 3 at 9:30 in the Black Box Theatre for our next PTO meeting. Pat Yates’ extremely talented drama students should be very entertaining.

It is a pleasure serving as your president this year. Your enthusiasm and dedication make my job easy and our school great. Thank you! Thank you!

Gratefully yours,

Carmen Morrow

PTO President



MBHS PTO Proposed Slate of Officers for 2011-2012

PRESIDENT:	Meg Hightower
1ST VICE PRESIDENT:	Caroline Sparrow
2ND VICE PRESIDENT/FUNDRAISER:	Nicky Barnes
3RD VICE PRESIDENT/FOUNDATION:	Leigh Ann Sisson
TREASURER:	Lane DeWine
ASST. TREASURER:	Temple Alexander
RECORDING SECRETARY:	Susan Waldrop
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:	Laura Read
PARLIAMENTARIAN:	Carmen Morrow



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



From the College Advisor's Office:

The twenty-fifth (25th) annual College Admissions Workshop was held this year on January 20th and 21st. This year's panelists included admission professionals from Boston College, Samford University, Sewanee: The University of the South, Skidmore College, Texas Christian University, and Washington and Lee University. Representatives shared insights on the college search process and how to apply to college on Thursday night, and then led students through a mock admission committee session on Friday morning.

The workshop committee did a wonderful job welcoming our guests, providing snacks, and working tirelessly to make the event a success. Thank you to all of the committee members who contributed to this year's event. Committee members include Chairman Martha Elliott, Co-Chairman Leigh Anne Philips, Debbie Bartoletti, Kimberly Bean, Susan Boston, Liz Briggs, Elizabeth Broughton, Nancy Burton, Nancy Canada, Trish Carey, Cora Causey, Missy Cunningham, Kelley Fitzpatrick, Lou Lanier, Natalie Lee, Cathy Luckie, Elizabeth Masingill, Catherine McCarty, Lesley McRae, Sonny Resha, Caroline Sirkin, Catherine Smith, Ellen Smith, Rowena Teague, Misti Weaver, and Paula Windle. A special thanks to Catherine Smith who opened her lovely home for the luncheon. Thank you for all of your help!

Anyone who did not attend the workshop but would like a copy of the Guide to College Admission, please stop by the Counseling office. The guide offers lots of information for parents, sophomores, and juniors about the college admission process.

This semester I will be visiting the 11th grade social studies classes to reintroduce students to Family Connection and discuss the college selection process. If you have a junior, please make an appointment this spring so that we can discuss your student's plans for college. Please call our office at 414-3818 to make an appointment.

Wed., Feb. 9 th : Risky Behaviors and Teens By: Dale Wisely, Ph.D.	<p>Coffee Talk Workshops are free but space is limited; you must register to attend.</p> <p>Contact Janice Grammer at 877-8349 or grammerj@mtnbrook.k12.al.us.</p>
Wed., March 9 th : Female Relationships in the Teen Years By: Alice H. Churnock, M.A., Licensed Professional Counselor	
Wed., April 6 th : Why Teens Are Susceptible to at Risk Behaviors By: Nancy Berland, Ph.D.	



Extended Time ACT

The Extended Time ACT will be offered on the National Test Date of April 9. The Registration deadline is March 3, 2011. An Extended Time ACT Test for students who require other accommodations in addition to extended time will be offered at MBHS on April 9 (registration deadline is March 3). The Extended Time SAT Reasoning Test is NOT offered at Mountain Brook High School (Birmingham-Southern College will be the test location). The Extended Time SAT testing dates and deadlines are the same as those listed for regular testing. Documentation and applications for extended time tests must be submitted to Special Education Teachers Katarina McGuire for ACT and SAT or to Counselor Angela Stowe by the deadlines. If the student does not have an IEP, 504 Plan or other written plan on file at MBHS, the time to process an application for extended time testing is longer (seven to eight weeks) than the published deadlines. To be considered for extended-time testing, students must meet all of the following criteria:

- (1) Has been professionally diagnosed as having a physical, sensory or learning disability by a qualified professional whose credentials are appropriate to the disability. If the original diagnosis was made before September 2007, there must be a reconfirmation within the last three years.
- (2) Has a current Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan, which specifically documents the disability and the need for extended time. All documentation must be on file at the high school.
- (3) Is currently receiving extended time as a testing accommodation at the school. (For exceptions to these criteria to be considered, additional documentation must be submitted.)



Vocational Rehabilitation Services is a state and federally funded training and employment program for people with disabilities. Your child may be eligible for testing/evaluation and/or financial assistance for college through Vocational Rehabilitation if any of the following conditions affect your child: loss of leg or arm; bone or joint problems; spinal injury; mitral valve prolapse; polio; heart condition; cerebral palsy; knee, ankle or leg problem; asthma; diabetes; sickle cell anemia; back problems; attention deficit; blood pressure; spina bifida; seizures; kidney condition; lung problems; arthritis; speech-hearing, vision, or emotional condition; cancer; or scoliosis. Please talk to your counselor for further information.

If your child is sick and misses three or more days of school, please call his or her counselor to request assignments. Please call early in the day, so assignments can be ready for pick-up that afternoon or the next day. Students who have an incomplete in any subject for the first semester need to clear it up immediately with their teachers.

The guidance office maintains files concerning summer programs (academic, outdoor, travel, etc.) Please feel free to visit the office to look through these files.

Please remember that rising sophomores, juniors and seniors may take the required social studies course in summer school, thereby giving them more flexibility in scheduling.

Summer School
First Session: June 6 - June 24. Second
Session: June 28 - July 19 (school closed on July 4)





Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation



MOUNTAIN BROOK CITY SCHOOLS FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Schools Foundation

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Foundation Offers "Extras"

Established in 1992, the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation has a vision to grow a self-sustaining endowment that funds the supplemental requests of the Mountain Brook Schools. The mission of the foundation is to mobilize community support and resources for the academic improvement of the schools.

High national stature, public-private reputation, small class sizes, state of the art technology, and highly trained staff represent the excellence that is now expected from the schools in Mountain Brook. As the foundation seeks to offer assistance in continuing that high level of success, we can state many reasons for and benefits to giving to the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation:

It provides a tax-deductible way to make a donation that will directly benefit our own children and grandchildren.

Property values are sustained as long as our school system is top ranked.

Corporations will often match donations given to K-12 Schools demonstrating the high level of importance that businesses are attributing to K-12 education.

Administrators can concentrate on the area of educating and not always on solving a funding crisis.

Decisions for improvement can be based on need and not on budgetary constraints.

Selective colleges and universities look at Mountain Brook High School applicants as having come from a "private school quality" public school and funding the "extras" will help this to continue.

An investment in the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation has reaped wonderful dividends for its investors as well as the students and teachers of the school system. The Foundation has provided:

- Computer workstations
- 110,000 hours of teacher training
- Reading and Math specialists
- Video Broadcasting equipment
- Science lab equipment
- Classroom Sound Enhancement Systems
- Mini Laptops
- Classroom Response Systems
- Listening Centers
- Tablet PCs
- Data Projectors
- Document Cameras
- GPS Software
- 21st Century Classroom Project
- 5,000 Library Books

Although the Foundation is not the reason for the success of our schools, it is playing an important role in providing the additions to the classrooms that are necessary for continued success.

Please start 2011 with a gift to the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation.



PROMETHEAN BOARD TECHNOLOGY WELCOMED TO CLASSROOMS

Approved last year by the foundation for funding, interactive whiteboards (Promethean Boards) are being installed this month at each elementary school in Mountain Brook. Initially a pilot program funded locally at Cherokee Bend, the program has been so successful that the foundation is helping to expand this technology to all four elementary schools. Cherokee Bend teachers Ashley Paulk and Jennifer Collins were the trail blazers and their work and success paved the way for the expansion of the program. Seen in the picture in use in Ashley Paulk's first grade classroom at Cherokee Bend, the display is connected to a computer and projector. Users control the computer by using a device for actions on the display. The board is used for all subjects.

Mrs. Paulk has the following to say about this exciting tool for her class:

This new technology is seen by everyone in the class and the children are able to help each other. It is engaging and motivating for my students and is helping them understand the lessons. The students use the board in a variety of ways, individually and in groups.

Jennifer Collins is using this technology in her Kindergarten classroom at Cherokee Bend. She has the following to say about its advantages:


We love our Promethean Board!

The use of our Promethean board has allowed my students to become more active participants in the classroom, while also giving them a chance to take ownership of their own learning. One of their favorite times of the day is when they go to the "Promethean Board Station" during our literacy instruction time. As a teacher, I love that I can use it to bring in new resources to help enhance my lessons as well as address different learning styles. It is amazing how easy it can be used to engage the students and get them excited about learning. It can be used in so many capacities throughout the day. There is rarely a time in my classroom that my Promethean Board isn't on. We absolutely love it!

Each year the foundation helps to bring innovation into the classrooms that will be effective enhancements to learning.

Call our office at 414-0042 with questions or visit our website at www.mtnbrookschoolsfoundation.com.

We support them;
they support us...

Dyron's
LOWCOUNTRY


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
LUNCH AND DINNER TUESDAY-SATURDAY
AND SUNDAY BRUNCH

121 OAK STREET MOUNTAIN BROOK
205.834.8257

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WHERE SHOPPING IS A PLEASURE®

Going grocery shopping?
Don't forget to show your Publix Partners card –
A portion of all sales comes right back to our school!
Get one for every keychain in your house –
and pick up some extras for your friends and neighbors.
Ask for them at the MBHS front desk –
every dollar spent will help fund school endeavors!

