

SPARTAN SPEAK

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MOUNTAIN BROOK HIGH SCHOOL
PTO NEWSLETTER

March
2011

Words of Wilson...



*A message from
Principal
Vic Wilson*

Greetings from MBHS,

It is hard to believe we find ourselves in the middle of March. The year is flying by, and graduation will be here before we know it. However, let us not graduate our wonderful class of 2011 too soon. We have too many activities and events going on and upcoming which have meaning in the lives of our students, faculty, staff, and parents.

While the calendar says we are in the latter stages of winter; spring has arrived in the minds of everyone at MBHS. Spring sports are in full swing. Our soccer, baseball, softball, tennis, golf, and track teams are all busy traveling around the area competing and winning events. If you get a chance, check the calendar and come see our students perform in the athletic venue. We also have our debate team winning regularly and preparing for the upcoming state and national championships.

We have just finished our AHSGE testing, and that event was very successful from an administration standpoint. We have begun the 9 week exams this week. Our students are working hard this week knowing that next week will give them a welcome respite from the daily grind of school. I hope that everyone enjoys the spring break (AEA week when I was their age). I hope that everyone is safe during this time. Please talk to your students about the importance of safety when traveling and enjoying the time off from school.

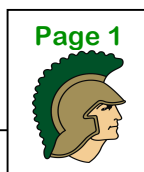
Congratulations to our basketball and wrestling teams for excellent seasons. Coach McMillan, Coach Tubbs, and Coach Tillman have all done an excellent job with the teams they coach. We had a state champion in wrestling. William Byrd won the 152lb class and was named the MVP for 6A. Also, congratulations to Dr. Blanton, his staff, and the entire band for receiving Superior ratings at the recent District Band Festival.

If you get an opportunity, I would love to invite you to the upcoming brown bag lunch to be held on April 21, 2011, at 11:45 in the college conference room. This is a time for a Q&A for parents with me. We have had excellent discussion in the past, and I hope the next one will be just as enjoyable and beneficial.

We will continue to work with all of our stakeholders at MBHS to make this a meaningful and productive year. Please continue to be involved in the life of your child. They need you more than you know and whether they say it or not; they do want you involved. I truly enjoy working with all of you and your children. Please contact me via email or phone if I can be of assistance to you. Thanks for all you do for MBHS!

Sincerely,

Vic



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PRIDE OF THE SPARTAN PTO



March is here and it's nearly time to pack our bags for Spring Break. As Vic mentioned, from here on out, it's downhill fast. May and final exams will be upon us before we know it.

I cannot thank you all enough for all that you do for our students and faculty at the high school. We are truly blessed to have parents who care so much about their children's education, parents who are willing to invest themselves in the process to make good and sure our school is the very best. Thank you!

Many of you have completed your volunteer jobs for the year. Thank you for the time, energy and talents you have shared. That said, there is still plenty to do before the end of the year. There are several hospitality committees that will soon be making plans for NHS induction, Honors Day, Awards Day and providing snacks for students taking AP exams. If you are serving on one of these committees, let me thank you especially since these last few months of school are typically very busy.

If you attended our March PTO meeting, you were treated to a preview of Pat Yates' Theatre students spring musical, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. What talent! I'm convinced some of these students are destined for stardom. We will get to tell everyone we saw them perform when they were in high school. Tickets can be purchased at the school for performances March 31st, April 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

The proposed slate was unanimously approved in both our March Executive Board meeting and in the General Membership meeting. We are lucky to have such a wonderful group of leaders who have agreed to sit on our Executive Board next year. They will be inducted as new officers at our May meeting.

Our next PTO meeting is Thursday, April 7. We will get to see what our Art and Business students have been up to. I look forward to seeing you there.

Gratefully yours,

Carmen Morrow
PTO President



PTO MEETINGS 2010 - 2011

April 7th, 2011

Program will highlight and honor our Art and Business Tech Students

May 5th, 2011

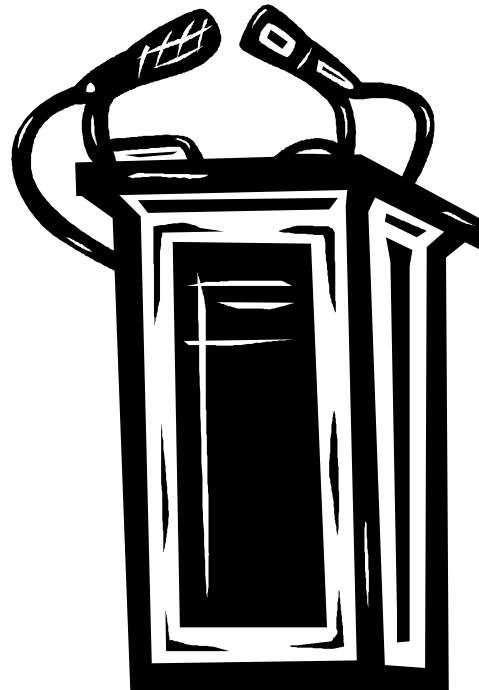
Recognition of Retiring Teachers, Senior Moms, PTO Officer

Induction and CHOIRS will perform

(PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MEETING WILL BE IN THE CHOIR ROOM)

*All Meetings Begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Spartan Arena Cage Club on the second floor (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TWO MEETINGS --- DEC. AND MAY)

Light refreshments will be served



Parent Coffee Talks 2011

Coffee Talks give parents the opportunity, in a small group environment, to hear local professionals discuss teen issues. These meetings are geared to help empower parents by providing guidance and a better understanding of adolescence. Everyone is invited to attend.

Coffee Talks are from 8:00 am to 9:00am in the Multi Purpose room at Mountain Brook Junior High.



Wednesday, April 6th, 2011
Why Teens are Susceptible to At Risk Behaviors
By: Nancy Berland, Ph.D.

BAD WEATHER AND SCHOOL CLOSINGS HOTLINE

Please make a note of the Mountain Brook Schools' hotline number for weather-related school closings and other emergency information:

414-6025



Post your news item in SPARTAN SPEAK

Send your submission to
Missy Scott at
scotland5@bellsouth.net.

Articles are due by 10 p.m. on the first
Thursday of the month.



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

Family Connection! Family Connection!

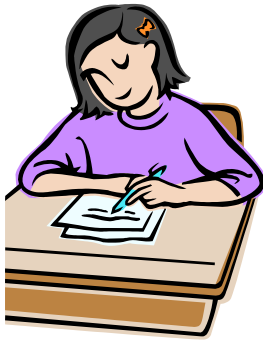
Hopefully all **sophomore parents** have now received information about **Family Connection**, a software program that will help students and parents research colleges and allow us to share information about the application process. Mrs. Svetlay recently visited the sophomore science classes to introduce them to Family Connection and talk about the college selection process. Sophomores and juniors will want to check out the **Game Plan Survey**, under the “About Me” tab, and the **College Search** function under “College.” These are great tools to help your student figure out what is important to him or her when choosing a college.

You can access Family Connection through the high school’s website. Click on Guidance and then find the link for Family Connection on the left side of the page. If you have forgotten your password, there is a place for you to enter your email address. Family Connection will then send your password to your email address.

If you have already registered with Family Connection for another student or have more than one student at the high school, you can use the same email address for multiple Family Connection accounts. Please contact Mrs. Svetlay (414-3818 or svetlayk@mtnbrook.k12.al.us) with your students’ names, and she will link your students’ accounts to your own.

As you begin to make summer plans, remember that we have information about many different summer opportunities for rising juniors and seniors. Watch the MBHS website for a full listing of opportunities under the Summer and Special Programs link.





TESTING

It is recommended that juniors take the SAT Reasoning Test and the ACT before the end of their junior year. Please note the remaining test dates:

ACT & ACT Plus Writing	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
April 9	March 4	March 18
June 11	May 6	May 20
SAT Reasoning Tests	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
May 7	April 8	April 22
June 4	May 6	May 20

(Students planning to attend selective colleges need to take SAT Subject Tests. Please see your counselor for more information.)

Important Information Regarding Acceptable Calculators for ACT...

To be certain your calculator is acceptable for the ACT, visit www.act.org call 1-800-498-6481 for a recorded message. TI calculators with model numbers that begin with TI-89 or TI-92 are prohibited. Additional information on prohibited calculators is on page 5 in the bulletin in the 2010-2011 ACT Registration Packet. Copies are available in the Guidance Office.



Counselor's Corner



The counselors have registered all students for courses for next year. All parent placements for English classes must be completed before the last day of school. The **deadline** for parent placement in all other courses is **June 15, 2011**. No parent placements will be granted after this date.

No schedule changes will be made between June 15th and registration in August.



The dates for **summer school** this year are: **First Session** - June 6-24, 2011. Classes taught will be Economics, Health and Driver's Ed. Classes are from 7:30-12:30. However, Driver's Ed class will be 9:30-12:30. Driver's Ed will be in the class room June 6-10 after that driving times will be assigned. **Second Session** - June 28-July 19, 2011 (school closed July 4). Classes taught will be Economics and Government. The cost is \$175 per session beginning March 1 through May 1. On May 1, the cost will be \$185. With increased requirements for high school graduation, the counselors encourage students to take summer courses if appropriate.

AP Exam registration information

has been distributed to all students in AP classes. Registration forms and checks are due to Mrs. Shoulders in the front office by **Tuesday, March 8, 2011**. The cost for each test is \$95.00. AP Exams will be given May 2 – 6 and May 9 – 13.

Seniors

You are encouraged to check with Mrs. Dukes to ensure that they have enough credits to graduate.





MOUNTAIN BROOK SCHOOLS

Foundation reaches Milestone for Mountain Brook Schools - Over \$4 million in Grants Since 1995

The Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation reached an exciting milestone in April with the approval of school funding for the 2010-2011 school year. With the \$382,640 approved for distribution to the schools over the next months, the foundation will have given over \$4 million in grants since distributions started in 1995. Thanks to the vision of its founders, the fundraising efforts of many devoted volunteers, the dedication of its board of directors, and the donations from thousands of individuals throughout our community, the foundation has been able to make an extremely positive impact on learning in our schools. In an area where education is a top priority, where excellence is expected and where learning must be “effective, challenging and engaging,” the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation has been a critical funding source for extras that the school system would have done without otherwise.

Although the foundation has reached an impressive \$4 million milestone, we need to do more. The needs of the school system surpass our funding capability each year and prioritization of the request has been a necessity. Our goal is to be able to fund a greater percentage of the annual request from the schools. The national economic downturn has made foundation resources more vital than ever for continued excellence in the Mountain Brook Schools. We ask that you consider a gift if you have not given before or that you continue your support of the foundation with any gift that you can. Increasing the endowment is essential in order to meet more of the needs of the schools. You can download a pledge card from www.mtnbrookschoolsfoundation.com . Please call our office at 414-0042 or email mbcsfoundation@bellsouth.net with questions or for additional information.



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

DYRONSLOWCOUNTRY.COM

