

SPARTAN SPEAK

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MOUNTAIN BROOK HIGH SCHOOL
PTO NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER
2010

Words of Wilson...



*A message from
Principal
Vic Wilson*

With our second quarter mid-term grades just around the corner, it becomes even more obvious that the 2010—2011 school year is not only off and running, but sprinting toward a new semester with astounding speed! I am delighted to report that even in the midst of all the great extracurricular activities our students enjoy, learning is still the primary focus at MBHS. The classes I visit, the conversations I hear in the mall and the student work I see posted in our hallways remind me daily that our students' academic lives are flourishing.

November marks something like the changing of the guard for athletics. With our football team getting ready to play in the second round of the playoffs vs. Vestavia and our volley ball season ending on a high note as well, we find that just around the corner we have basketball and wrestling. Additionally, this weekend our cross country teams will compete for the state championships. Our girls go for their 8th consecutive championship, and the boys go for their 3rd consecutive championship. Good luck to Coach Echols, Coach McGovern, the entire staff, and all of the athletes on another championship. Good luck to Coach Yeager, his staff and team as well.

We now turn our attention to basketball and wrestling. We have our sights set on a very successful season for basketball. Coach Tubbs and Coach McMillan have worked the teams very hard in preparation for the season. Likewise, Coach Tillman has worked hard to prepare the wrestling team as they prepare for the season. Good luck to all groups on a successful season.

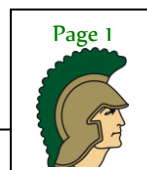
Next week the MBHS Drama Department opens with what I predict will be another hit. On Saturday evening, November 13th, our actors will present the first of five performances of *Our Town*. All performances will be in the MBHS Black Box Theatre. You will find information about tickets and performance dates and times on the school website. Did I mention that just last week our drama students returned from the Trumbauer District Competition with more awards than they could carry? They are headed for state in December. Good luck to all.

By the way, our fall choral show was very impressive. If you missed it, you missed an amazing display of talent from MBHS students. Dwight Brown, Carl Dean, and everyone involved did an exceptional job with this show. My daughter and I actually attended one of the performances and times left singing and dancing.

As one of my favorite holidays—Thanksgiving—approaches, I invite you to join me in planning some time for reflection on the many things for which our school community has to be grateful. We have young people with eager minds, outstanding teachers with energy and professionalism and parents with un-wavering support for both of the groups just mentioned. That combination makes Mountain Brook a special place in which to learn and grow, and I appreciate each member of those three groups.

Sincerely,

Vic



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PRIDE OF THE SPARTAN PTO



With the Thanksgiving holiday approaching, this year is moving full steam ahead toward the end of the second nine weeks and exams. I am shocked to discover that the end of the first semester is already in sight.

I hope you took the opportunity to attend one of the houses that hosted the Hitting Home series coordinated by the Mountain Brook Anti-Drug and Alcohol Coalition. It was very nicely done and well received by those who attended. What a wonderful way to have frank, open and caring conversations about our children!

The MBHS Debate Team gave an amazing presentation at our November meeting. These are some seriously fast-talking, quick thinking, intellectuals. In case you haven't heard, they are nationally ranked! Best wishes to these students and their coach, Mr. Jeff Roberts, as they compete this year.

We are looking forward to another Legislative Roundtable Thursday, November 18. This year Vestavia is hosting the event. It's a great opportunity for us to keep conversations going with our legislators. Please feel free to join us. It's open to the public, but know that space at Vestavia City Hall is limited.

Our December PTO meeting promises to be star studded in many ways. We will get a sneak preview of the MBHS choir's holiday program. As you know, these students are bubbling over with talent. *Glee*, eat your heart out! We will also meet some of our intellectual super stars, our National Merit Scholar semi-finalists and commended students. The meeting will begin at 9:30 in the Choir Room (not the Cage Club). Light refreshments will be served.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I want to take be sure to thank each of you who have given your time, talents and/or money to support the MBHS PTO and our school. Your support makes the difference between a good school and a great school. Thanks to you, MBHS is great!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Gratefully yours,

Carmen Morrow
PTO President



PTO MEETINGS 2010 - 2011

December 2nd, 2010

Dwight Brown will showcase several of our Choir Groups
(PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MEETING WILL BE IN THE CHOIR ROOM)

January 2011

NO MEETING

February 3rd, 2011

Program will highlight and honor DEBATE students

March 3rd, 2011

Program will highlight and honor our Business and Career Tech Students

April 7th, 2011

Program will highlight and honor our Art 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 2010-2011

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, January 12th, 2011

*Helping Your Child with Study Skills
and Organization*

By: Casey Lancaster M.A., Licensed Professional Counselor

Wednesday, February 9th, 2011

Risky Behaviors and Teens

By: Dale Wisely Ph.D.

Wednesday, March 9th, 2011

Female Relationships in the Teen Years

By: Alice H. Churnock, M.A.,
Licensed Professional Counselor

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.





CONGRATS!

The nominee for the LeadAmerica Conference is **Benjamin Webster**.

The nominees for the High School Leadership Conference held by Auburn University's SGA are **John Harris Britton, Summers Hester and Ryan Read**.

The new 2011 representatives for the Youth Leadership Forum are **Mack Barnes and Thomas Johnston**.

Congratulations to all!

College Application Deadlines! College Application Deadlines!

Please remember that any application due to a college or university before January 15, 2011, should be turned into the Guidance Office by December 1, 2010. This will allow us time to process the large number of applications we receive during this time. If you have questions about what needs to be turned into the Guidance Office, please stop by or give us a call, 414-3818.

If you have applied Early Decision and are waiting to hear from a specific school, please have all other applications in to our office by the December 1st deadline. Many schools have deadlines in early January, and we will need time to prepare applications if they need to be sent.

Both Auburn University and the University of Alabama have a scholarship deadline of December 1st. If a student is interested in being considered for a merit-based scholarship at either school, he or she will need to submit a completed application by December 1st.





TESTING

Juniors are recommended to take the ACT and SAT during their second semester, beginning in January. Applications are available in the Guidance Office. It is the responsibility of the student to pick up an application.

ACT Test Date

February 12, 2011
April 9, 2011
June 11, 2011

Regular Deadline

January 7, 2011
March 4, 2011
May 6, 2011

Late Deadline

January 21, 2011
March 18, 2011
May 20, 2011

SAT Reasoning Date

January 22, 2011
March 12, 2011
May 7, 2011
June 4, 2011

Regular Deadline

December 23, 2010
February 11, 2011
April 8, 2011
May 6, 2011

Late Deadline

January 7, 2011
February 25, 2011
April 22, 2011
May 20, 2011

The SAT Reasoning Test emphasizes reading, writing and math. The critical reading section includes short reading passages; the writing section includes a student-written essay and multiple-choice questions that assess mastery of standard written English. The math section includes items from Algebra II, in addition to existing Algebra I and Geometry questions.

- **Reminder: The SAT Reasoning and Subject Test Registration Forms must be completed in black or blue ink. Also, the Reasoning Test and the Subject Tests may not be taken on the same day. The High School Code for both the SAT and the ACT is 010-380. Visit www.collegeboard.com to register for the SAT Reasoning Test or www.actstudent.org to register for the ACT.**



Counselor's Corner

Seniors

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

First nine weeks report cards were given to students on Thursday, October 21. If you have any questions concerning these grades, please contact your student's counselor.

If your child is struggling with any current personal issue or past event that affects his or her performance, please consider letting the teachers know. Not only can teachers potentially modify their interaction with a student, but also they can be alert to any performance or behavior that warrants monitoring. You can contact your child's teachers directly, or you can contact the counselor for help with this process. Any information you reveal will be kept in confidence and will be relayed only to those you desire to have it.

Male students 18 or older are required to register with the Selective Service System in one of two ways: (1) complete a form at the U.S. Post Office or (2) through the web site at www.sss.gov.

Students with medical conditions

You may qualify for vocational rehabilitation services through the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services. Please contact one of the counselors for additional information.





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 mbscfoundation@bellsouth.net with questions or for additional information.



We are ALL in this together!!!



Support MBHS PTO

Parents, Students, Faculty and Administration

We NEED you and your additional financial support

Thanks to our community, Board of Education, as well as teachers and administrators that value high quality education, Mountain Brook has one of the best high schools in the United States, consistently ranking among the best of all public high schools. (Newsweek Magazine survey 2009).

Your support through the PTO means that our students will continue to have an outstanding high school experience, preparing them for college and life beyond the classroom. We fulfill the extra needs- Security Cameras, state of the art Microscopes, "Turn it In.com", Microphones, as well as fundamental Classroom Materials. Your investment in MBHS will go straight to the instructional needs of students and faculty.

We know your time is valuable, so we don't ask you to sell candy bars, magazines or wrapping paper! Instead, we ask you to show your support by sending a tax-deductible donation to Mountain Brook High School. Thank you in advance for your support!

This is our only MBHS PTO Fundraiser!

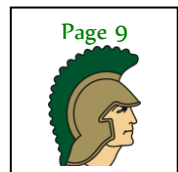
One for all and all for one!



Your student(s): _____
Parents: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____

Contribution: Make Payable to "MBHS PTO"
_____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$150 _____ \$200 _____ other amount

Mountain Brook High School
3650 Bethune Drive
Mountain Brook, AL 35223



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

