

# SPARTAN SPEAK

MOUNTAIN BROOK HIGH SCHOOL  
PTO NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER  
2010

## Words of Wilson...



*A message from  
Principal  
Vic Wilson*

Greetings -

I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying the school year so far. Our students have been recognized for academic, athletic, and extra-curricular activities. We have 13 National Merit Semifinalists, 21 Commended Students, nationally recognized debate students, nationally ranked cross-country athletes, award winning band members, and a host of other students whose work is recognized on the local and state level. It is my firm belief that we will have many more students and teachers at MBHS recognized in the upcoming months. In fact, we have just received information that our debate team at MBHS has been recognized as one of the best in the United States. The National Forensics League has indicated that our debate program is in the top 5% of all teams in the United States. Congratulations to Jeff Roberts and Katie McLure, and all of the debate team members.

An exciting aspect of MBHS is the school spirit exhibited on a daily basis. I invite you to come to a Mountain Brook sporting event or extracurricular activity. Excitement fills the air at Spartan stadium on Friday night with the team playing an exciting brand of football, the cheerleaders and Spartan flags calling the fans to cheer for the team, and the band and Dorians showcasing wonderful talents during the game and at halftime. Excitement can be found at Spartan Arena when our volleyball team plays as well. Excitement is also evident on Saturdays as our nationally ranked cross country teams compete and win against the top teams in the state, region, and nation. Also, on Oct 18, our basketball and wrestling teams begin practice in hopes of winning championships as well. Please take the opportunity to come watch any and all of our extracurricular teams compete.

If I could, I would invite you to see the school spirit that is evident on a daily basis in every class. Our students and teachers are working hard and working together to have a positive impact on the learning environment at MBHS. However, I might get in trouble with the teachers and students if we have too many fans in the classroom. We do have exams coming up in the first few days of October. Please encourage your students to study hard, and encourage them to communicate with teachers, administrators and parents regarding the work they do in class. Even though you are not able to be in the classroom, you are still an integral part of the learning process. Your help is needed to ensure school spirit on a daily basis in the classroom by continuing to encourage your student to be the best he or she can be in the classroom, during extracurricular opportunities, and even during a seemingly insignificant but very important time called a free period.

Have a great day!

*Vic*

## SPARTAN PTO PRIDE...

What an action packed September! It felt like we were just getting started and before the end of September, we celebrated Homecoming! And what a fabulous Homecoming! The weather, the pep rally, the parade, the football game, and the Homecoming dance were all about as good as it gets. I heard that parent chaperones from our **Volunteer Committee** loved the dance! And I also heard Mr. Wilson enjoyed the band as much as the kids! **Thank you so much** for spending your Friday evening with our children.

Our Volunteer Committee has been pressed into service several times overseeing voting in the mall for Student Government and Homecoming Queen. as well as chaperoning the dance. **Thank you so much** for being there each and every time you are needed.

As parents, we always think about our children's safety, and in Mountain Brook, October is when we make extra efforts to discuss drinking and drug abuse with our students (at MBHS this is a year long event). Many thanks to our Anti-Drug and Alcohol Committee Chairs **Laura Read and Kimberly Rodgers** who work closely with Student Assistance Counselor **Kenneth Harkless** to develop fun and meaningful ways to keep the dialogue open. During the week of October 25-29, the first 500 students to sign a pledge to be alcohol and drug free will receive a Mt. Brook Spartan air freshener. (I hope to have one dangling from my rearview mirror!)

This year the Mt. Brook Anti-Drug Coalition is offering something new and exciting. Coalition Co-chairmen **Norman Jetmundsen and Leigh Ann Sisson**, and Student Services Director **Dr. Dale Wisely** are inviting parents to informal gatherings in four homes on Monday, October 25 from 6:30 - 8:30p. The program is called **Hitting Home**. Speakers will discuss teen pressures and trends involving risky behaviors in our community, and present methods to encourage wise decisions and minimize risks. More information about these meetings is provided on page 4. Try to attend and become better informed about important issues facing our children!

Our Brown Bag lunch with Mr. Wilson was well attended, interesting and informative. I hope you will mark your calendars and join us at the next **Brown Bag lunch on November 18th at 11:30am in the MBHS College Conference Room.**

Finally, please make plans to attend the **November 4th PTO Meeting at 9:30am in the Cage Room** when we will introduce our **13 National Merit Scholar Semi-finalists and 21 Commendees**. These students (and their parents) have worked very hard, and we look forward to publically acknowledging their achievements. I hope to see you there!

**Again, thanks so much for all you do to keep Mountain Brook schools great!**

Gratefully yours,

*Carmen Morrow*

PTO President



**CONGRATULATIONS to the following students  
who have been recognized by the  
National Merit Scholarship Program!**

**National Merit Semifinalists**

Paul Adkison  
Cornelia Buchanan  
Haley Delk  
Bruce Eckert  
Wilson Fisher  
Mason Johnson  
Sarah McClees  
Peter Oakes  
Ryan Scott  
Skipper Stradtman  
Clinton Taylor  
Pete Thomas  
Henry Waller

**National Merit Commended Students**

Julia Adams  
Nicholas Bolus  
Mac Carder  
Elizabeth Corey  
Owen Elliott  
Jesse Gettinger  
Scott Godchaux  
Neil Griffin  
Jay Johnstone  
Stewart Kendrick  
Charlie McBride  
Annie Newton  
Richard O'Brien  
Tucker Osborne  
Brennan Peck  
Taylor Pope  
Lily Posey  
James Ramsey  
David Sandefer  
Laura Wagner  
Will Wilder

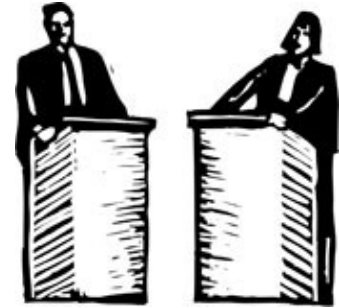


**Congratulations!  
Great Work!**



October 2010

## Spartan Debate Parent Association



The newly formed “Spartan Debate Parent Association” held its first fund raiser during Homecoming week, and sold silk neckties in Spartan gold, green and white. Thanks to strong support from students and parents, the popular ties **sold out quickly!** Funds raised by the group will support the Mt. Brook High School debate team including member travel expenses to compete in out-of-state tournaments. This year, team members are scheduled to debate in: New York, Texas, Illinois, North Carolina, Kentucky, Georgia, Massachusetts (**Harvard!**) and, Washington, D.C.

Travel expenses for debate team travel squads (numbering from one to ten+ eligible members) vary based on the specific tournament, but can range from \$500 to \$1,000 per student! Some eligible students are unable to compete due to the extra costs, while other students don’t join debate purely based upon financial concerns. While the team is included in the school operating budget, our school and community want to support academic teams just as we do our other teams. The Spartan Debate Parent Association aims to duplicate the great success of our sports and music booster groups who have helped provide first-class facilities and equipment for Mt. Brook athletes, musicians and artists.

The Spartan Debate Parent Association wants to insure that our winning debaters have a chance to bring accolades and trophies back to MBHS. Our debate team is uniquely positioned to nationally promote Mt. Brook Schools’ reputation for academic excellence by successfully competing on college and high school campuses across the country. **While many colleges and universities offer full or partial scholarships to successful debaters, our MBHS Debate students can’t win tournaments (and won’t receive scholarship offers) if they can’t get to the playing field.**

The Spartan Debate Parent Association truly appreciates the support and encouragement received from administration, parents and students for our first fund raiser!! It was a sell-out! We especially wish to thank: Spartan Debate Coach Jeff Roberts, MBJH Principal Ben Hudson, MBHS Principal Vic Wilson and Superintendent Dicky Barlow for supporting our new booster group and helping us get off to a running start. If you are interested in participating or making a tax-deductible donation to the team, contact Coach Roberts for more information.



October 2010

## A Message for Parents About Underage Drinking:

**Monday, October 26  
6:30-8:00 pm**

**One night, four homes, one message!** Please join other Mountain Brook parents at informal gatherings where we can sit, share, and solve issues surrounding underage drinking in our community. Don't miss this opportunity to hear speakers discuss what kinds of pressures and current trends are occurring in the area of risky behaviors within our neighborhoods. These gatherings are open to all Mountain Brook parents with children in elementary, junior high, and high school. We ask that you attend the gathering closes to your residence. Each home will feature a speaker, a school administrator, and various school staff. If you will be attending, please respond via the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/hittinghome> by Friday, October 22. We look forward to an informative and productive evening as we team up against underage drinking in our community. We want Mountain Brook to be a place that provides a healthy environment for our kids to be educated and to socialize in safely!

Meg and Price Hightower

4405 Kennesaw Drive

Cheryl and Philip Crane

17 Clarendon Road

Jeannie and Cal Dodson

108 Crestwood Drive

Suzanne and David Dickson

3201 North Woodridge Rd



**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.

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**APPLICATION DUE DATE**

**GUIDANCE OFFICE DUE DATE**

October 15, 2010

September 24, 2010

November 1, 2010

October 11, 2010

November 15, 2010

October 25, 2010

December 1, 2010

November 10, 2010

December 15, 2010

November 22, 2010

Before January 15, 2011

December 1, 2010

### ATTN: SENIORS

Please remember to turn in your brag sheets and ask your teachers for recommendations (if needed). You will also want to see if the schools to which you are applying require official test scores from the testing agency. If so, you will need to contact ACT or College Board to send a copy of your score report directly to the school.





**ATTN: SOPHOMORES**

The PLAN Test will be given on Saturday, Oct. 23, 2010, in the MBHS library to registered sophomores. The test helps sophomores prepare for the ACT and with career planning. The PLAN is made up of academic tests (English, Math, Science Reasoning & Reading), an interest inventory, a study skills assessment, and a student information section. The test should be over at 11 a.m.

**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
December 11, 2010	November 5, 2010	November 19, 2010
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
December 4, 2010	November 5, 2010	November 19, 2010
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



## Have you heard of Leadership Mountain Brook?

Leadership Mountain Brook 2010-2011 is the inaugural class of a partnership between The City of Mountain Brook, the Mayor's Office, the Chamber of Commerce, the Emmet O'Neal Library and MBHS. The class is coordinated through the MBHS Career Focus program with day-to-day activities directed by the Chamber of Commerce. Leadership Mountain Brook will facilitate the development of leadership skills as students learn about management, planning, and city development. Leadership Mountain Brook consists of sixteen 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade MBHS students who were nominated by high school teachers, then selected based upon their application and essay submission.

During the first nine weeks, students learned about the city organizational structure and operational concerns. Students met with the City Manager, City Planner and City Financial Director, as well as many Chiefs and Directors of city departments. Participation in city events is also an important part of Leadership Mountain Brook, and students participated in: Dawg Daze (as parade judges), Cahaba Village for the Cure, and Fire Prevention Awareness Week.

The second nine weeks will emphasize communication and professional skills. Local businesses, organizations, civic groups, and continued interactions with citizens, city leaders, and agencies will assist the students perfect these skills. Tune in to Channel 10, the Chamber of Commerce website ([www.welcometomountainbrook.com](http://www.welcometomountainbrook.com)), or Facebook (Shop, Dine, and Discover the Villages of Mountain Brook) for updates throughout the year.

Leadership Mountain Brook's program outcomes are exciting – for both the students and the City. If these students are any indication, the future looks great for Mountain Brook! Watch for these sixteen exceptional students as they work in the present while planning for the future of Mountain Brook.



October 2010



**FALL CHOIR SHOW**  
***BROOKIE IN THE MIRROR:***  
***The Music of Michael Jackson***



**Tuesday, October 26**

**Wednesday, October 27**

**Thursday, October 28**

**7:00pm (doors open at 6:45pm)**

**MBHS Fine Arts Center**

**\$10 per person**

**Tickets can be purchased from any choir student.**

**Red Ribbon Week**

**October 25-29**

**Talk to your children about making  
healthy choices!**

*See the Connections...*

*Choices = Consequences*

**I AM**

**DRUG-FREE™**



October 2010

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

LUNCH AND DINNER TUESDAY-SATURDAY  
AND SUNDAY BRUNCH

121 OAK STREET MOUNTAIN BROOK  
205.834.8257

DYRONSLowcountry.COM

# Publix.

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!

