

# SPARTAN SPEAK

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MOUNTAIN BROOK HIGH SCHOOL  
PTO NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER  
2010

## Words of Wilson...



## *A message from Principal Vic Wilson*

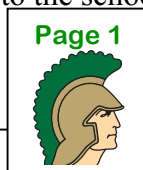
The 2010—2011 school year is off to a wonderful beginning! Those new, young faces I began seeing in the mall some three weeks ago are now much more relaxed and familiar. I am delighted to report that our juniors and seniors have certainly contributed to the more relaxed expressions of our sophomores. I want to extend my special thanks to our Ambassadors, who served as small-group guides for our sophomores during the first two hours of their first school day at MBHS. I believe that being welcomed in a warm way helps to set the tone for a successful school year.

And speaking of those who helped set a positive tone, our PTO furnished and served a delicious “Welcome-Back” lunch for our teachers on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you so much for such a thoughtful act. By treating us on that last work day before our students arrived and our lunchroom opened, you allowed us to concentrate on getting those last-minute preparations completed without worrying about bringing a lunch from home or dashing out for a sandwich. Of course, this is just one example of the many ways our PTO helps us throughout the year. We feel so fortunate to have you as strong, reliable partners in the education of your sons and daughters—our students.

I also want to thank the Mountain Brook Foundation for the support they provide on an on-going basis. The funds they contribute to our technology program enable us to prepare our students to be 21<sup>st</sup> Century learners and leaders. As the world grows ever smaller with instant communication and a wealth of information at the touch of a computer key, it becomes more and more important that our students are able to navigate seamlessly through the varied technologies available and that they begin to anticipate the technological advances that are just around the bend. Our Foundation also supports professional development opportunities for our teachers to expand their content knowledge and pedagogical skills.

I know that many of you had the opportunity to meet one or more of our new teachers during Open House, and I hope that each of you will get to meet them when you are on campus from time to time. We have seven new, well-prepared and personable faculty members who have joined us this year. In the Social Studies Department, we have Whitney Polstra. Susan Pruitt has joined science and John Binet is a new member of the world language and math department. Stacy Barnett is new to the math department as well, while Steven Yates has joined the library staff. Finally, we have Amber Benson in our business department and Dr. Angela Stowe as our new junior counselor. Thanks to the on-going support of their mentors and the warm welcome from the rest of the faculty, they are thriving!

Congratulations on an excellent start to the school year!



Sincerely,

*Vic*

# PRIDE OF THE SPARTAN PTO



August arrived, and we clung to those last few weeks of summer. Before we knew it, the first day of school was here again. This year that first day was a doozy! Not only did our kids meet their teachers and re-familiarize themselves with the hustle and bustle of a school day, but we parents got to do just the same that night at Open House. How nice to put faces and classrooms with the teachers our children will be talking about (if we're lucky!) all year long. Thank you so much to Lisa Rutherford and her Hospitality Committee who provided the refreshments for us that evening. It was lovely. Thank you also to the SGA Super Seven who served as hosts and hostesses at the refreshment table that evening.

Some of our committees were busy even before the first bell rang! Carrie Coons, Susan Williams and their Hospitality Committee served the teachers lunch that made their first day back at school special. Tricia Drew, Lauren Hayes and their very thoughtful Teacher Appreciation Committee served a continental breakfast for our teachers early one morning before their first faculty meeting. Kaci Chesebro and her New Parent Orientation Committee graciously welcomed families of the 23 students who are new to our school this year. Kaci is kind enough to chair two committees this year, and her Volunteer Committee has already been busy too! Let's not forget Kitty Lovelady, Alison Bryant, Harriett Crockard and their Registration Committee. They worked patiently and tirelessly over the course of four days, with the help of MBHS staff, to register close to 1,000 students! Penney Hartline and her committee have been hard at work encouraging all of you to support our Fundraiser. Please know that this year it's more important than ever!

Our school budget will experience a \$20,000 cut in funding (\$10,000 state and \$10,000 local) that would have gone directly for instructional needs in our classrooms. Yikes! As a PTO, we hope to do our very best to ease the burden these cuts will cause. Thank you so much to those of you who have already generously contributed.

Our first PTO meeting of the year was well attended. Thank you to all of you who took time out of your busy schedules to be there. Superintendent Dicky Barlow educated us on the current financial state of the school district and the forecast for the next few years. He also discussed the importance of our school's standard of effective, challenging and engaging education. If you missed it, you missed an opportunity to see him rap! Who knew?! You never know what might happen at a PTO meeting!

I feel fortunate to live in a community with parents who are so wonderfully dedicated to supporting our schools through the PTO with their time, talents and money. As Penney Hartline says, "We're all in this together!" Thank you to all of you who have supported the PTO through your membership, serving on a committee or by supporting our fundraiser. My hope is that our PTO will continue to make a difference so that our students will continue to have an outstanding high school experience, preparing them for college and life beyond the classroom.

I look forward to seeing you at the Brown Bag Lunch on Wednesday, September 15 and our next PTO meeting on Thursday, October 7. Dale Wisely will be our guest speaker.

Gratefully yours,

*Carmen Morrow*  
2010 PTO President



## PTO MEETINGS 2010 - 2011

**September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010**

Mr. Richard C. Barlow, Superintendent  
“Current funding issues and the general state of our schools”

**October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Dr. Dale Wisely, Director of Student Services for  
Mountain Brook Schools  
“The New Graduated Driver's License”  
Plus, students Julia Gannon and Skipper Stradtman  
Introducing “Brookie in the Mirror: The Music of Michael Jackson”

**November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Recognition of our National Merit Finalists and  
Commended Finalists

**December 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011**

Program will highlight and honor DEBATE students

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011**

Program will highlight and honor our Business and Career Tech Students

**April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Program will highlight and honor our Art Students

**May 5<sup>th</sup>, 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, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

*Reading Strategies to Improve School Success*  
By: Jennifer Summerlin, CB Reading Specialist

**Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

*Parenting and Communicating with Teens*  
By: Dale Wisely Ph.D.

**Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

*Technology: Keeping Kids Safe with Internet and Cell Phones*  
By: Dale Wisely Ph.D.



**Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

*Helping Your Child with Study Skills and Organization*

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

**Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

*Risky Behaviors and Teens*  
By: Dale Wisely Ph.D.

**Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

*Female Relationships in the Teen Years*  
By: Alice H. Churnock, M.A.,  
Licensed Professional Counselor

**Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

*Why Teens are Susceptible to At Risk Behaviors*  
By: Nancy Berland, Ph.D.

## PTO Pat On The Back!

Open House was held on the first night of school, August 17<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks to a great Hospitality Committee that baked goodies for all parents to enjoy! A special thanks to Mary Beck, Mary Beth McCrary and Kim Wilcox for all your help with icing down 800 waters and for setting up!

## 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](mailto:scotland5@bellsouth.net).

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



**STUDENT TESTS**

**September 2010 - Required Sophomore Tests**  
(Alabama High School Graduation Exams)

**Tuesday, September 21** AHSGE Biology  
All sophomores who have completed Biology course  
**Wednesday, September 22** AHSGE Math  
All sophomores who have completed Algebra I

**September 2010 - Required Junior/Senior Tests**  
(For juniors who were absent for these tests last year and seniors who have not already passed these tests)

**Monday, September 20** AHSGE Social Studies  
**Tuesday, September 21** AHSGE Biology  
**Wednesday, September 22** AHSGE Math  
**Thursday, September 23** AHSGE Reading  
**Friday, September 24** AHSGE Language

**October 2010 - Required Sophomore/Junior Tests**  
**Wednesday, October 13** PSAT/NMSQT  
All sophomores and juniors

**October 2010 Optional Sophomore Test**  
**Saturday, October 23** PLAN  
(a "pre-ACT" test)  
Sophomores (\$25 nonrefundable cost; sign up and turn in checks -- payable to MBHS -- in the guidance office by Wed., September 17.)

**Please note:** First period will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 21 and Wednesday, September 22 (AHSGE), and at 11:10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 13 (PSAT/NMSQT).

**ACT Dates 2010-2011**

September 11, 2010	October 23, 2010
December 11, 2010	February 12, 2011
April 9, 2011	June 11, 2011

Visit [ACT](#) to register.

**SAT Dates 2010-2011**

October 9, 2010	November 6, 2010
December 4, 2010	January 22, 2011
March 12, 2011	May 7, 2011
June 4, 2011	

Visit [SAT](#) to register.

Students should plan to take the SAT or ACT in the winter or spring of their junior year. Many selective colleges and universities require students to take the SAT Subject tests. Students should plan to take Subject tests, if needed, at the end of their junior year.





# 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](http://www.mtnbrookschoolsfoundation.com) . Please call our office at 414-0042 or email [mbscfoundation@bellsouth.net](mailto: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

