

SHELBY COUNTY COUNCIL PTA NEWSLETTER

Nancy Loggins, President

November 2009

Citizenship Essay Contest and Safety Poster Contest

Drop Off Dates and Locations

November 17

Bon Lin Elementary School
3940 North Germantown Pkwy., Bartlett

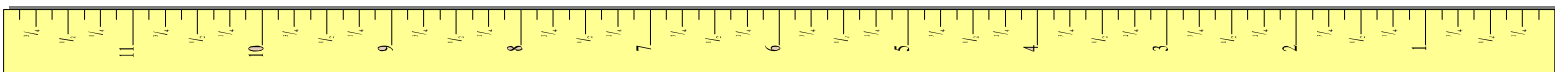
November 19

Highland Oaks Middle School
5600 Meadowbriar Trail, Memphis

November 20

Second Membership Report due to Laura Worthington, Vice President Membership

FORMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.SCCPTA.ORG



PTA is Electrifying!

In my opinion these are electrifying times for PTA. Technology offers new means of communication with more people than ever before, and the exploding diversity of our nation also poses real opportunities - opportunities to revitalize our organization; opportunities to learn from new cultures and share new experiences; and opportunities to expand the circle of adults who advocate for children. Now more than ever, PTA has to be an organization that, not only welcomes, but also embraces diversity. PTA's have to embrace this technical age of email, Facebook, and Twitter to connect with our members.

You can stay connected to Shelby County Schools via email, Power School, the new rapid response system and now A-Mail. If you would like to receive emails from Mr. John Aitken, SCS Superintendent, simply email "I would like to be added to A Mail" along with your name and email address to Cheryl Nasca, cnasca@scsk12.org.

We often hear public service announcements about "stay in school". I would like to encourage you as PTA leaders to send that same message to parents... **to stay in school**. Stay involved in your child's school. Our children need us in middle and high school as much as they need us in elementary. Granted, they may not want you to share a sandwich at the lunch, but they still need you. Get to know the teachers. Ask how you can support your student's learning at home. Volunteer for school activities and events when possible and **support your PTA**. When parents get involved, children do better in school and in life. When parents get involved, school quality improves. Parent involvement is the number one factor affecting student success... regardless of socio-economic status, ethnic/racial background, or the education level of parents.

- Nancy Loggins
Shelby County Council President

PTA PURPOSES

- ✓ To promote the welfare of the children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship.
- ✓ To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.
- ✓ To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
- ✓ To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.
- ✓ To raise the standards of home life.

PTA MISSION

- ✓ A powerful voice for all children,
- ✓ A relevant source for families and communities, and
- ✓ A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

Looking for some great program ideas?

SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME PREVENTION BUREAU - (901) 867-1401

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	TARGET
McGruff	McGruff, talk s about strangers	Pre-school through 3 rd grade
Drug/Alcohol Awareness	Explains the harmful affects	5 th grade through Adult
Stranger Danger	Explains about strangers	Pre-school through 4 th grade
Junior Deputy Program	3 month program about Juvenile rights, Drug and Alcohol abuse Stranger Danger, In case of Emergency	4 th grade only
Teen Awareness	Informs teens of Tennessee laws	7 th grade through 12 th grade
Teen Suicide	Teen Suicide Awareness	Parents of Teens
D.U.I. Awareness	Hazards and Penalties when driving	8 th grade through Adult
Parents Should Know	Informs parents about laws for children	Adults
Home Security Education	How to protect your home/valuables	Community
Home Security Evaluation	Individual security assessments	Community
Neighborhood Watch	How to make our neighborhoods safer	Community
Common Sense Self-Defense	How to avoid becoming a victim of crime	Community
Crime and loss Prevention	How to secure your business against crime	Business Community
Drugs in the Workplace	How drugs affect the employee, safety	Business Community
Gun Safety	What to do if you find a gun	K through 6 th grade
Gun Safety	What to do if you find a gun	K through 6 th grade
Holiday Safety	Shopping safely during the holiday	Community
Senior Safety	Scams and being safe	Seniors
Bike Safety	Riding Safe and obeying the laws	5 yrs old through 12 yrs old
School Bus Safety	Staying safe while on or around the School bus	5 yrs old through 12 yrs old
Seasonal Safety Tips	Halloween / Fireworks safety	Children & Parents
Self-Esteem	Making the right decisions	4 th grade through 8 th grade
Choices We Make	Thinking before re-acting	8 th grade through 12 th grade
Dating Violence	How to have a safe date	7 th grade through 12 th grade (Females)
Internet Safety and Security	Internet Hazards and Scams	Internet Users
Work Place Violence	Recognizing potential hazards	Business Community
Parking Lot Safety	Staying alert at all times	Community
Traffic Safety	Driving safe	Community
Child Passenger Safety	Transporting children safely	Community
Child Seat Check	Certified Child Restraint Techs ensure proper child seat installation	Community
Street Gang Awareness	Recognition & Identification	Community
Hispanic Gang Awareness	Recognition & Identification	Community
Summer Parks Program	Safety topics for children enrolled in Community centers	Community Children
Identity Theft	How to protect your identity	Community

Contact Joni McMahan at programs@sccpta.org if you need more suggestions!

Hospitality Corner...

Michele Murgatroyd, Vice President Hospitality

I am so excited to report that over 90% of all Shelby County Schools Presidents and Principals attended this year's Presidents and Principals Luncheon. It was a great time for all who attended. Michael Todd, Events Manager for Incredible Pizza, was our gracious host for the event. Congratulations to all who won door prizes. Special thanks to Mr. Aitken, Mr. Pickler, Mrs. Price, and Mr. Tebbe who joined in the fun! I hope to see you all again at the Founder's Day Celebration on February 3rd.



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Inspirational Moment

"Don't Quit"

Provided by
Theresa Farris,
Vice President Inspiration

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will;
When the road you're trudging seems all up hill;
When the funds are low and the debts are high
And you want to smile, but have to sigh;
When care is pressing you down a bit-
Rest if you must, but do not quit.

Success is failure turned inside out;
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt;
And you can never tell how close you are
It may be near when it seems so far;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit-
It's when things go wrong that you must not quit.

4 in a row!!!

SCS Earns Straight “A’s” in Achievement on TN Report Card for Fourth Year in a Row!

- *One of Only 12 of TN’s 136 Systems to Score Straight “A’s”**

Make it four! ... As in four consecutive years that Shelby County Schools has earned all “A’s” in Achievement on the Tennessee Report Card. The feat in places SCS in elite company atop Tennessee’s educational ranks, having been one of only 12 of the state’s 136 school systems to score straight “A’s” in Achievement in 2009. Plus, three fourths of SCS schools tested “Above Average” or at “Exemplary” levels.

The other 11 school systems to earn all “A’s” average about 8,360 students and 12 schools, as opposed to Shelby County Schools’ enrollment of 46,264 and 51 schools. Additionally, SCS receives an average of \$828 per pupil less than its straight-“A” counterparts.

Providing SCS with an added degree of satisfaction this year is that the “A’s” in Achievement were obtained in the face of new and more stringent assessment and curriculum standards adopted by the Tennessee Department of Education. Under the Tennessee Diploma Project, standards were made to be more reflective of national and international student performance in the 21st century. Anticipating the higher standards, Shelby County Schools has worked hard over the last three years to make its instructional program more rigorous by adopting a more challenging curriculum and emphasizing critical thinking skills, as well as through professional development for teachers.

In a press conference on Tuesday, November 3, Superintendent John Aitken and School Board Chairman David Pickler each thanked everyone who helped make this outstanding accomplishment possible for a fourth consecutive year.

“To be one of only 12 of Tennessee’s 136 school systems to make all ‘A’s’ in Academic Achievement is a credit to our outstanding teachers, administrators and staff, as well as our hardworking students and supportive parents and Board,” Superintendent Aitken stated. “Shelby County Schools welcomes the challenge of meeting the higher nationally aligned standards that Tennessee has adopted. We are proud of the fact that SCS continues to be recognized as one of the state’s top-performing systems with straight ‘A’s’ in Academic Achievement.





MOST VALUABLE PRINCIPAL

Our principal at **SOUTHWIND ELEMENTARY** is the best because she is ...

P - PATIENT, PERSONABLE
R - RESPONSIBLE, RESPECTFUL
I - INTELLIGENT
N - NICE, NOBLE
C - CARING
I - INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER
P - PUNCTUAL
A - ACCOUNTABLE
L - LOYAL

...and her name is Mrs. Sue Jones!

The Shelby County Council PTA would like to spotlight your Principal in our MVP (Most Valuable Principal) section of our newsletter. Please submit, along with a picture, why you think your Principal is the BEST in Shelby County. Please send all submissions to publicity@sccpta.org.

Deadline! Deadline! Deadline! Deadline! Deadline! Deadline!

Submit biographies for recipient(s) of the
Tennessee PTA or National PTA Achievement Award for Founder's Day

by January 8, 2010 to publicity@sccpta.org

Sixty (60) character limit for each biography