

THE NORTHWEST NEWS

Northwest Regional Office
673 Vance Ave.
Memphis, Tn. 38126

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 12

OCTOBER 26, 2009

Special Points of Interest:

TOP NEWS: We will see you guys on Tuesday for principals meeting at the TLA. NW breakout Session beings at 8 am.

- **The dates of October 30th through November 26th begin "Fall Media Sweeps."**News Stations will be looking for stories to sensationalize and to provide "info-tainment" to the public at our expense. We should all work together to make sure that we encourage our staff and students to not allow this to happen. Let's set a goal of zero media stories regarding our schools. Remember, to work/implement your school-wide behavior plans.
- **IMPORTANT: AVATAR**-Please ensure that your school's professional development is captured in PDMS/AVATAR. Ensure that all professional development that you, your teachers, or any staff person in your building attends, is captured through registration in AVATAR. The regional office receives a weekly report of the usage for the NW region. All schools are expected to adhere to this request. **Teachers should register for all courses entered by your school and the facilitator for your session should mark the participants as passed at the conclusion of the session.** Please view the tips & tidbits on page 3 regarding course entry requirements for approval.
- **PDADMIN Emails:** The email alert has been turned off by the Pd Department.
- **Evaluation Documents– Standard A** is due on October 29th for those principals who are going through the Eval Process.
- **Compstat Data Report Outs:**All Principals are expected to register in AVATAR for NW data meetings. You will only have to register ONCE. **Please register TODAY.**
- **Learning Village - Open Labs for Teachers needing additional assistance**
If you have teachers who need one-on-one assistance with Learning Village, please encourage them to attend one of the open labs. These labs will be held at the Technology Training Center, located at 3772 Jackson Avenue (adjacent to the North Area Office) from 3:00 - 5:00pm on the following dates: **Nov. 3, and Nov. 10.** Teachers can register to attend in the Avatar Professional Development Management System (ters.mcsk12.net) under *Learning Village Open Lab*
- **Headspout Benchmark Assessments**– teachers should benchmark students after each student completes episodes 5, 11, 18, 23, 30, 40, 47, 52, 55, 66, 72, and 77. Please ensure that teachers benchmark students enrolled in Headspout and enter those scores into the database. The NW team will be monitoring benchmark results for each school. Teachers should use the Headspout Placement Assessment for set a heads and opt-out recommendations. Both should be emailed to assessment@headspout.com (set a heads) or rmorris@headspout.com (opt-outs).
- **EXCEL Reports**-teachers should start developing STAR (EXCEL) reports for students who warrant it. If students are at-risk of failing, a STAR report should be developed. Note: Time beyond the regular instructional day is considered an intervention. The regular class time is mandated by the State Department; therefore, Tier II and III interventions must take place in addition to regular class time, not in lieu of it. (Inform your teachers to document all academic interventions.) We are in the process of hiring Teacher Assistants for grades K-1. An action plan regarding this initiative will be shared at the next principals' meeting.
- **IEP Goal Progress Reports**- must be sent home with report cards for all students who receive special education services. Teachers received instructions by e-mail last week.
- **PowerTeacher INFO** – please send these links to your teachers.
<http://www.mcsk12.net/forms/ops/Letter to Teachers.doc>
<http://www.mcsk12.net/forms/ops/PowerTeacher from home.doc>



Pointed in the Right Direction !

Catherine Battle
Superintendent

Pamela Jackson
Director

Tameka Allen
Academic Coordinator

Femetres Gray
Professional Development
Coordinator

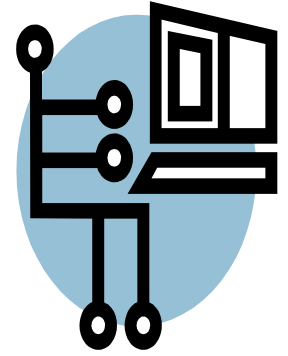
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EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN & HEALTH SERVICES

- Special education teachers must complete and turn in a n equipment inventory to their Supervisor by October 20, 2009.
- Plans are being made for mental health clinicians to work with Health and Wellness classes to do classroom suicide prevention presentations for ninth graders.
- One hundred fifty-four students from twelve high schools across regions participated in Disability Mentoring Day on Thursday, October 15 and visited the following job sites: Marriott, FedEx Ground, Wal-Mart, Nike, Target, Job Corps, TN Career Center, Ike's, and the Shelby County Health Dept. Students were able to job shadow in the areas of their career interests.
- Monthly meeting for special education teachers is Wednesday, October 21. Flyers will be e-mailed to teachers informing them of the time and location for each region. Important information regarding compliance and instruction is shared at these monthly meetings.
- There is confusion about who the special health care nurses report to and principals are having difficulty knowing who to call when issues arise. For clarification, the special health care nurses are in Exceptional Children and Health Services and work under the supervision of Cassandra Pope. Please contact Ms. Pope with any concerns related to these nurses.



*Patricia Toarmina
Executive Director*

Schools

PRE K–12 MATHEMATICS

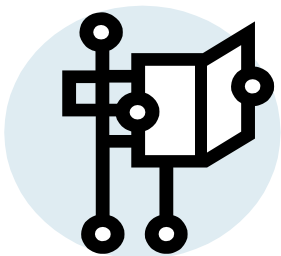
Dr. Suzanne Thomas
Executive Director,
Mathematics

Stanford Math:

Students can work from home on the Stanford Math and Language Arts and Writing Programs. Please follow the link <http://www.mcsk12.net/forms/ops/EPGY at Home.doc> to learn how to access Stanford Math from home. Encourage your students to work additional minutes in the Stanford programs from home, after-school care, libraries, churches, or any where they have internet access.

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Dr. Felicia Fowler
Coordinator,
Instructional Technology



James Bacchus
Executive Director,
Chief of Student Support

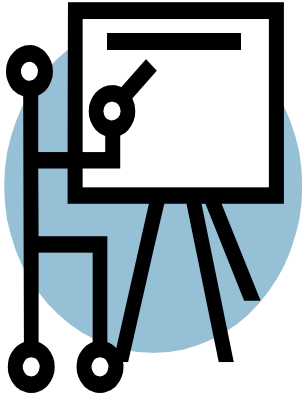
STUDENT SUPPORT

On **October 30, 2009** the Overton Dance Team will train teams of students from **any interested school** in the **Fight Free Training.**

From Cheryl Ross-Williams, Principals please remind your Graduation Coaches to have all senior transcripts analyzed by October 29th, 2009.

Principals and Assistant principals: **The RISE Project of UM is conducting a Data Analysis and Planning Workshop** from 8 - 3 on October 20, 2009 for representatives from School Wide Discipline Committees.

High School Principals: The Think Tank for African American Progress is hosting a free Youth Focused Think Tank at Rhodes College on October 14 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. <http://www.mcsk12.net/forms/ops/African American Think Tank Letter.doc>



Myra I. Whitney,
Associate Superintendent
901.416. 5930

Isaac Wright,
Monitors Avatar Platform

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our office of PD and Staff-In Service assigns all students for clinical experiences, student teaching, internships (Bal to Pal), etc.

We work in concert with all University and college reps and Joyce Mitchell's office of Pre K - 16. No longer are schools allowed to randomly select schools and arrange their own placements.

Assistant Principals – Professional development for assistant principals is scheduled for Region 1 – October 28 (3007.3833).

Monthly Subject Area Teacher Collaborative. Principals please note the upcoming meetings beginning on **November 4, 2009.** http://www.mcsk12.net/forms/ops/subject_areas_meetings.doc

Monthly Subject Area Teacher Collaborative Locations

NW Region:

ELA– Cypress
Social Studies-Manassas
Math-Snowden
Science– Georgian Hills Middle
World Language– Bellevue
Visual Arts-Central
Band/Choir-TBA

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Mid-South Technology Conference Registration Open Now!

The Technology Division is pleased to announce registration for the 2009 Mid-South Technology Conference is open! Registration is free for all MCS employees so join us **December 9-10, 2009** at the Cook Convention Center. To register, go to <http://www.mcsk12.net/techconference>

Student Email (Gaggle.net) coming to a Middle School near you!

The Technology Division will begin rolling out the student email initiative on **October 12th** to all middle schools and AP Computer Science classes. Middle school students, teachers and principals will receive a Gaggle account. The rollout for high school students will be **January 4, 2010** and elementary schools (5th grade only) will be after Spring Break (date to be determined).

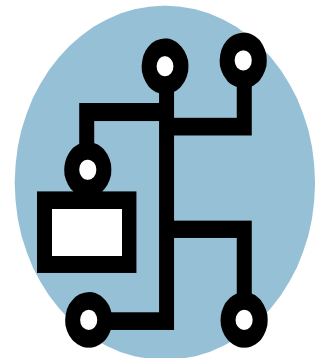
Felicia Fowler,
Instructional
Technology
Coordinator

FALL EXHIBITION OF STUDENT WORK

Fall Exhibition Juror Entry – Please enter all recruited jurors for your school in the on-line juror application on the Exhibition of Student Work website by Friday, October 30th at 4:00 p.m. We will pull breakfast/lunch numbers for your school from jurors entered by that date. Directions for accessing this application and your juror lists were sent to your school's curator last week. If you are having trouble entering jurors or accessing your list, please call our office 416-5041.

High School Capstone Project – The Capstone manuals and downloadable forms can be accessed from the Capstone link on the Exhibition of Student Work website. Please remind your teachers, students, and parents that the **username is mescapstone** and the **password is letmein.**

Principals' Meeting Powerpoint – Many of you requested a copy of the Exhibition of Student Work informational PowerPoint from Principals' Meeting on October 20th. It is posted under News and Announcements on the Exhibition of Student Work website.



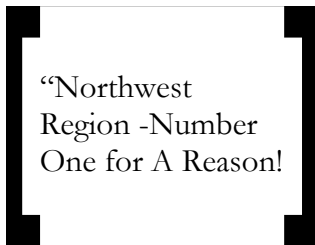
Judy Jackson,
Director of Exhibition
901.416.5041

**MEMPHIS CITY SCHOOLS
NORTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE**

**Please send all KUDOS to Femetres
Gray**

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www.mcsk12.net

Congratulations on your Junior League of Memphis (JLM) Grant (Dr. D Jackson/Virginia Peete-Downtown, Yvonne Williams-Humes Alt, Shandronica Lawson, Amanda Nixon, Tanya Dennis, Sharren Williams, Amy McCall-Delano Elementary, Stephanie Williams-KIPP, and Regina Boyd-Peabody.

Snowden's Walk to School Day

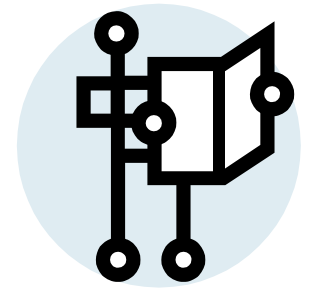
Go to <http://www.iwalktoschool.org/photos/all.cfm> to view photos of Snowden's Walk to School Day which are included with photos of kids walking all over our country and the world! Snowden is cool, cause we walk to school!

Bellevue Middle-The King and Queen of Emure Kingdom in Ekiti State, Nigeria was visited Memphis on Oct.15 and 16 @ Bellevue Middle School. A special program was held that included remarks by MCS officials, principals, and a youth development panel discussion highlighting programs such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, Memphis Athletic Ministries and the City of Memphis Summer Youth Program.

Frayser Elementary student honored for saving the lives of her family in a fire at their home. The fire museum of Memphis presented Anaya Suggs with the civilian award for her bravery. Anaya says the program she saw at the fire museum helped her to save her family. Outstanding news!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- Monday, October 26th– NW Writing Cohort Training– Vance Middle 3:30-5:30 (13 select schools only)
- Monday, October 26 Final draft of TSIPP should be submitted to Regional Superintendent Sunday, November 1 TSIPP due to State's Field Service Center
- Wednesday, November 11 Progress Reports Issued
- Thursday, November 12 Exhibition of Student Work
- Wednesday, November 18 Learning Express Folio Writing Assessment (Grades 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11)
- November 25 – 27 Thanksgiving Holiday (Students)
- November 26 – 27 Thanksgiving Holiday (Admin.)



*To view 2009—2010
School Calendar,
please visit
www.mcsk12.net*