



DOWNTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

An Exemplary Learning Environment Defines Downtown Elementary School!

Downtown Elementary Publishing Co.

Volume 6, Issue 2

Winter 2009

Special points of interest:

- Biographies
- Reviews
- Advice
- Events
- Stories
- Recognitions
- Activities
- And Much, Much More...

Teacher Biographies ² Inside this issue:

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Downtown Elementary School is well into another outstanding year in the heart of the city. This is the 6th year since Downtown Elementary opened as a Social Studies Optional School. Principal Marcia Wunderlich has overseen the development of a unique culturally diverse educational community where teachers and students are committed to academic excellence in a nur-



Downtown Elementary's Students & Teachers: Beacons of Light!

turing environment. Downtown Elementary began the new school year by being featured on the local news during a visit by Memphis School Board President Tomeka Hart, Memphis City Schools Superintendent Kriner Cash and other dignitaries. Downtown Elementary is often spotlighted as a model for successful central city schools. Many of the students have parents who work in the downtown area.

This year, there are approximately 690 students currently enrolled. All of the faculty meet the state and national Highly Qualified

standards. Additionally, 100% of teachers have State Teaching Certificates and have earned Bachelors Degrees with over 60% having advanced degrees such as Masters, Education Specialists and Doctoral degrees. This is significant in that studies have repeatedly shown a positive correlation between the level of teachers education and students academic performance.

Everyone at Downtown Elementary works to foster a warm, welcoming environment conducive to the healthy social and academic development of children. Please feel free to drop in and observe for yourself. By Dr. Maxwell & Newspaper Staff.

Presenting: Some of Our Newspaper Writers

***Hi, my name is Taylor Renee Price. I am 8 years old. I was born on May 13, 2000. I am from Memphis. I love reading, P.E. and math. I love to dance. I have been taking dance class. Dance is my favorite after school subject. I love to cheer as well.

My brother's name is Tyler. My mom's name is Paula Price. My dad's name is Steven Price. My mom and me have

the same middle name. I have a poodle named Precious. I like Ci-ara, Megan Jett Martin and T.I. ***My name is Jessica Liddell. I have two brothers. I am in Ms. Hendrix class. My favorite subject is P.E. I like swimming and soccer. My favorite restaurants are Red Robin and Wendy's. My favorite food is pepperoni pizza.

I like to shop. I love to sing and dance. I made a movie at Linden-

wood. My favorite movie is Alvin and the Chipmunks. My favorite game is Monopoly. My favorite vacation spot is the Caribbean. ***Hello, my name is Tony (T.J.) Olden. I am 8 years old. My sister's name is Kristie. My teacher's name is Ms. D. Johnson. My best friend is Darius. I would like to visit Hollywood. I love to swim and play. My favorite sports are basketball and football. I like hamburgers.

Presenting: The Wonderful Teachers of Downtown Elementary

The newspaper staff interviewed our faculty & staff. Here is what we learned.

***I interviewed Arthur Latrelle Scott. He teaches 5th grade. In the 5th grade, he went to Georgia Avenue Elementary School. His favorite teacher was Ralph Sparks from White Station High School. He has two cats named Nancy and Snowball.

Mr. Scott's favorite book is The Pilgrim's Progress. His favorite movie is Cry, My Beloved People. His favorite T.V. show is Heroes. His favorite vacation spot is Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Mr. Scott's favorite foods are steak and shrimp. His favorite childhood toy was a burgundy track certified dirt bike. If he could invent something it would be a cell

phone watch. By Trey (501)

***I interviewed Timothy Ray Cain. He teaches 1st grade. His favorite city is Memphis and state is Tennessee. His favorite place to visit is Florida. His favorite book is the Bible because it is full of wisdom. His favorite food is fish and orange is his drink. His favorite animal's are elephants because they are huge.



Timeless Teachers!

Mr. Cain's favorite form of transportation is a car because he is in control. He likes the 750 BMW.

His favorite color is red. His favorite radio stations are 95.7 and 94.7. His favorite holiday is the 4th of July. By Desmond (403)

***My name is Lauren and I interviewed Alicia Lasha Turner who teaches 3rd grade.

She has 22 students in her class. Ms. Turner is from Somerville, TN. She went to college at the University of Memphis. Her favorite color is purple.

Ms. Turner's favorite singer is Beyonce. Her favorite book is The Outsiders. She loves to eat broccoli. She likes to drink Sprite. Her favorite car is the new Beetle By Lauren (301) PS: In class we sometimes call her "Ms. Skittle Poof" because she eats Skittles!

Congrats to Ms. Deanna Jeffries!

Second grade teacher Ms. Jeffries was named the Memphis Grizzlies Teacher of the month! She was nominated by Xavier Fuller.

INTERESTING PEOPLE AT DOWNTOWN by the Newspaper Staff

***I interviewed Kristen Cacaro a student teacher at Downtown Elementary. She was born in Miami, Florida. She does not get to pick her teacher to work with. Ms. Cacaro teaches Reading and English. If you are lucky enough, you will get in her class. She teaches 3rd grade.

Ms. Cararo's favorite state is Hawaii. She likes Hawaii because she thinks it is a pretty state. Her favorite holiday is New Years. She likes it because it is the start of a new year. By Terrell (401)

***I interviewed the student teacher in my class, Jamie Lee McCabe. She has one child. She is a student at the University of Memphis. She will graduate in 2009. She teaches Math and Science and enjoys it.

Ms. McCabe's favorite holiday is Thanksgiving because there is delicious food and family. She likes fruits because they are sweet and colorful. She likes the food at Huey's. She likes collecting books and reading them. Her

favorite movie is What about Bob? It is funny. She listens to hip-hop and country music. By Kenard (402)

***The person I interviewed was Blake Fontenay. He is from Nashville, TN. He has one sister. He likes cats because he and his wife have one. He likes blue. His favorite city is Gainesville, FL because it is warm there. His favorite state is Florida because there is a lot to see and do there. His favorite book is Tourist Season because it is funny and full of surprises. By Nicholas (404)

Achievement IS the Norm at Downtown Elementary School

Downtown Elementary is proud once again to be a leader in student and teacher achievement. Our school has recently been recognized for a number of outstanding accomplishments.

Congratulations are in order for Dean Jeffries, a 2nd grade teacher. She was awarded a grant from the Education and Community Programs Office of the Orpheum Theater. The selection committee was impressed with her creativity in integrating performing arts into her lessons. The grant will allow 25 students to attend the Magic Tree Play in March.

Downtown Elementary was proud to have

4 students earn 5 art awards at the Mid-South Fair. The winners are: 1st Place Josh Coleman (6th grade) and Canterryia Moore (5th grade); 4th Place Danielle Jackson (5th grade) and Gabrielle Marshall (2nd grade); and the Memphis College of Arts Scholarship was also won by Gabrielle Marshall.

Dr. D. Jackson Maxwell was fortunate to have three articles on education accepted for publication. The articles will appear in Library Media Connection (February 2009), School Library Media Activities Monthly (Spring 2009), and LibrarySparks (Winter 2009). You can also see monthly articles on education by Dr. Maxwell in the local newspapers Baby Boomers News and the Lamp Lighter.

Downtown Elementary was once again selected as a preferred site for teachers in training. Twenty-three interns from the University of Memphis (UM) are currently serving as student teachers under the tutelage of Downtown Elementary School's High Qualified teachers. Additionally, two students from UM and one from CBU just completed their practice teaching here. The teacher trainees provide our students with extra personal attention. Jamie McCabe, a student teacher, said, "I have been working with students in small groups to help refine their skills. I have been able to really help students prepare for TCAP." Edited by the Newspaper Staff

Our Stories & Lists by the Newspaper Staff

I had a waffle and a root beer for breakfast. I called Tony and Dorsey. We went to the skate park. There we caught some air. Then we went to Papa John's Pizza. We went to the movies to watch a horror movie. After that, we went to Tony's house and had a party all night long. We then took a little nap. After the nap, we went to the skating rink until it was night time. Then we all went back home to fall asleep.

By Haven (301)

It was December 25, 2008 and I was down to my last two presents. I was so excited when I opened one. Yeah! It was a set of wands and thousands of different crystals to power them. There were long and short wands, and big and small crystals. I opened the other present and it was spell cards. All the sets were there. I was so happy.

All of a sudden, mom and dad pulled out another present. It was huge. I opened it and it was lots of robes. I used some of the spells for my personal use, like taking out the trash and washing dishes. When

my friends came over, they got wands and everything else also.

I chose to be Death element. My friend chose to be fire. Wizards love to brawl, so we first trained and then brawled. It was awesome. I'm a good sport, so I gave him a card for being so good. Then I had an idea about a trade we could make. So, we traded and then went to a party. The End???

By Matt (501)

MY STORY

One Christmas eve, my sister Jarai went to the Christmas tree. Jarai saw a little smile. The ornaments on the tree came alive. The ornaments ate her toes. The tree grabbed her body and ate her alive. When mom came into the room, Jarai was gone. That was unfortunately her last Christmas.

By Mallory (303)

My Life

Hello girls and boys, my name is Tyra. I am not,

repeat not, a predator. I'm in 302, Ms. Turner's class. I have lots of friends. I actually have a friend from when I was 2 years old. Her name is Jessica. I never ever went to college. Well, I went to my brother's college but that does not count!

My favorite song is Disturbea. My favorite female singers are Miley and Keke Palmer. My favorite movie is *Mama Mia* and my favorite song from the movie is *Dancing Queen*.

When I go home after school, I love to say hi to my family members. These are their names: Jasa, Kiva, A.J. and me. My brother is in college like I told you. By the way, his name is Anthony. My parents and aunt work at a business called Your Travel Biz.

Attention all students, parents, teachers and stakeholders: Please contribute to the Box Top\$ for Education Drive!

Unscrambles, Brain Teasers and Activities

A Word Search

by Jarai

Book Review

by Jada

E Z Y P O W E R L
T T L E J B C B O
D S M A R T S E O
D A N C E O K V H
L O V E L P M I C
L N R A E L F L S

Find these words: 1. Power 2. Smart; 3. DTE; 4. Dance; 5. School; 6. Learn; 7. Peace; 8. Love; 9. Live

For a Harry Potter fan, I would recommend *Which Witch?* by Eva Ibbotson. A wizard name Arriman is trying to marry one of the blackest witches. However, he does not want one with warts or missing parts. A witch named Belladonna has no problems except blackest thing she has ever done is turn a woman into a willow tree. Give this book a try.

The Best Riddles by Trevor

1. One day a driver got pulled over by the police. The driver said, "I was only doing 80." The police officer let him go without giving him a ticket. Why?
2. There was a donkey who loved to eat apples. So, his owner tied him with a 3 foot rope 6 feet away from the apples. However, the donkey was still able to get the apples. How?

A:1) 80 kilometers; 2) One end was not tied

Dates to Remember: Things Going On at Downtown Elementary

Feb. 3	TCAP Writing 5th grade
Feb. 5	Class/Group Pictures
Feb. 14	Valentines Day
Feb. 16	No School/Conferences
Feb. 24	PIE Meeting/Brotherhood Program/Heart 4 Art Supper
Mar. 16-20	Spring Break
Mar. 30-April 2	Book Fair
April 4	TCAP Saturday
April 8	Spring Pictures
April 10	No School

Unscramble My Favorite After-Care Teachers by Dariana

1. D L H O R E
 2. I D A R A
 3. U N G Y O
 4. A I T G H E
 5. R N O J S N H
- Answers: 1. Holder; 2. Adair; 3. Young; 4. Gaither; 5. Johnson
- Fill in the Vowels: Musicians by Tylor
1. J_n_s Br_th_rs
 2. Chr_s Br_wn
 3. Ch__t_h G_rls
 4. _v_rl_f_
 5. B_y_nc_

Top 10 Electronics by Kennedy (303)

1. PS2
2. Nintendo DS
3. Gameboy
4. Nintendo SP
5. Computers
6. Televisions
7. Cellphones
8. Wii
9. Robots
10. Droids and Clones



**Arghh, Matees
It's Games!
Games! And More
Games!**

Here are Some of Downtown's Stellar Students

The newspaper staff interviewed some of our students. Here is what we learned.

***The person I interviewed was Taylor Renee Price. He mother's name is Paula Renee Price and her father's name is Steven Lee Price. Her favorite video game is Hanna Montana World Tour. Her favorite show is Zoe 101. Her favorite singer is Rhianna. She does not like SpongeBob. She thinks it is boring. Her favorite book is Fox in Socks. She has a poodle but she does not like alligators. She says they eat people! By Trinity (303)

***The person I interviewed is Tyla Robinson. Her birthday is 12-30-1998. Tyla has a brother. She is in 4th grade. She likes Downtown Elementary because she loves to learn. Her old teacher is Ms. Smith-Taylor who made Math easy. Her favorite subject is Science because you can do experiments.

Tyla does not have a cell phone. She loves to read because it is fun. Her favorite book is Cat In The Hat. Her favorite movie is King Kong because it is an adventure movie. Her favorite singer is Alicia Keys. She loves art because it is creative.

Tyla does not have a favorite sport. She loves pizza because it tastes good. Tyla loves drinks like Coke. She likes all colors. Tyla has been to Florida with her great grandmother. By TaZaria' (402)***I interviewed Matthew Christopher McKnight. He is in 4th grade. His best friend is his

sister, Demesha, because she is very fun and likes video games. Matthew does not have a pet. His favorite teacher is Ms. Jeffries because she let him do his homework in class. Matthew's favorite subject is English because it does not have a lot of questions. He does not like tests because they have the most effect on his grades.

Matthew loves crab legs because he likes seafood. He likes games because they get him away from watching TV. His favorite movie is 30 Days of Nights—it is very scary. Matthew's favorite book is Top Secret because it is very exciting. His favorite place to visit is Universal Studios because it has many rides. Lil' Wayne is his favorite actor because the movies he is in are funny.

Matthew's favorite city is Memphis because he was born here. His favorite state is California because it is sunny there. Halloween is the best holiday because the parties are very scary. His favorite planet is Earth because it is a wonderful place to be. By Roland (401)

***The person I interviewed is Maggie Spence. She was born in Memphis, Tennessee. Maggie was born in 2002. Her favorite flower is a rose. She has gone to the Mid-South Fair five times. Her favorite landmark is Mud Island.

Maggie's favorite subject is Reading. She likes Junie B. Jones stories. They are funny. SpongeBob Squarepants is her favorite TV



Super Students!

show. Her favorite movie is Underdog. Her favorite singer is Chris Brown. Her favorite food are egg rolls. Her favorite desert is ice cream.

Maggie's favorite time is when she is with Alandria. Her most embarrassing time was when

she got a spanking. It hurt! By Angel (301)

The Story of Umeia Taylor by Ayanna (304)

There is a girl named Umeia Taylor in Pre-K. her favorite colors are orange and green because carrots are orange and greens are green. She is 5 years old. Her favorite teacher is Ms. Moak because she is fun. Her favorite subject is Science

because it is fun. Her favorite sport is tennis. She likes to hit the ball. She loves painting her nails in cotton candy style. Her favorite hairstyle is braids with beads on them because to get them, she gets to go to the beauty shop.

Umeia's favorite movie is High School Musical. A dog is her favorite pet because they are fun to play with. She likes the game checkers. Her

favorite song is fabulous because she likes singing it. Sprite is her favorite soda. It is good.

A Special Thanks goes out to the Memphis Grizzlies for once again including Downtown Elementary in their Read to Achieve Program!

Stories By Downtown Elementary Students

Chattanooga Field Trip

Last year, all of the 3rd grade classes went on the Chattanooga field trip. Two classes got on one bus and three classes got on the other. We went at night and the bus driver turned on the television. We stopped at McDonald's to eat breakfast. The we got back on the bus and made it to Chattanooga.

In Chattanooga, we went to Ocean Life. We saw fish, birds, butterflies, jellyfish, octopi, and crabs. We went to the restaurant and the IMAX theater. We visited the gift shop. Then, we got back on the

road. We took a shortcut and made it back to Downtown Elementary. We got ready and went to school. By Adrian (404)

The Diary of Christmas

Dear Diary,

I want my Christmas to be special. I want an Ipod, a flat screen TV, a new pair of Jordan's, and some more stuff. My mom said, "Gerrica you can get all of that." That's how I want my Christmas to be. Just like last year where we had cookies, cakes and many presents. The presents were dolls, Nintendos, and other Christmas things. It was fun! My grandmother gave the most presents. There

were lots of people there I was close to. What an exciting Christmas!!! By Gerrica (404)

Mermaid Summer

Mermaids have signal necklaces. If you see a mermaid, wave to her. Walk to the water and ask her if you can be one too. Here is a mermaid song:

Some place on your own to live into the zone. Home is here. Kiss my love. We will be together. Ooooooooh! By Jonathan (601), ponders an article. By Maxwell (404)

Ask a Student: Questionable Advice by The Newspaper Staff

Charlotte (201) asks: How do you get in the DTE Newspaper Club?

Trey & Donte reply: You sign up with Dr. Maxwell.

Jayvon (202) says: Soriszmey?

Kenard, Roland & Terrell answer: We hope you pass.

Matthew (202) ponders: What are you doing? Is it fun?

Roland says: We are answering questions, and it is fun!

Kaiah (501) asks: Who is a better dancer than Beyonce'?

Jarai states: Me, Jarai Boykins.

Jasmine (501) asks: If you could have a million dollars, what would you do with it?

Tazaria says: I would spend it on me.

Ian (603) asks: How do you get perfect,

all A's on your report card?

Lauren & Mallory say: Do good in class, study and be quiet.

Rasha (303): What is a good movie?

Nicholas and Desmond state: We recommend Journey to the Center of the Earth.

Mary (401) & Abraham (501):

How many books are in the library?

Trevor & Adrian state: 9,767 books.



Answers to your mail

Great Questions about Pets & Animals

Jeremy (201) asks: How many different types of dogs are there?

Trey & Dante say: There are over 1,000 different types.

Kayla (204) wonders: Can I get a dog?

Jada states: You will need to ask your parents.

Rylee (404) asks: How do you get a new dog?

Trey & Dante state: You need to buy one.

Nickeatrice & Taylor (203) ask: How do you take

care of cats and dogs?

Kennedy and Taylor state: 1) Feed them; 2) Give

them a bath; 3) Brush their teeth and clean their

ears; 4) Walk them; and 5) Let them sleep.

Bailey (201) wonders: How do you train pets?

Trey & Dante state: You spend time with them.

K'niyah (203): How many pets do you have?

Kennedy and Taylor respond: Kennedy has 18

pets and Taylor has 1 pet.

by The Newspaper Staff



Got Questions? Please send them to us for answers!

Ideas for Gifts, Presents & Shopping by The Newspaper Staff

Dominique & Tyreenika (501) ask: what is the best present to give your mom to make her happy?

Trey & Dante reply: Buy a nice dress, ring or perfume for her.

Jermiya (201): What should I shop for to give my mother for her birthday?

Trey & Dante state: Go shopping with her and buy her some clothes.

Joseph (603) wonders: What is a

good present to give your best friend?

Lauren & Mallory say: You should give him a teddy bear.

Kiana (603) asks: What is the best gift to get for Christmas?

Lauren & Mallory answer: Ask for an I-pod.

Emily (201) wonders: Should I get my dad a wallet?

Trey & Dante state: Yes, and fill it with money.

Jasmine (501) questions: If you had a million dollars, what would you do with it?

Trey & Dante say: We would go on a shopping spree and buy a Bakugan.

Stevin (204) asks: Should I throw a party?

Jada responds: I think so.

Games & Sports Questions by The Newspaper Staff

Jordan (201) asks: How do you catch a fish?

Trey and Dante state: You have to take your time and have patience.

Chasidy (501) ponders: Why are sports played all over the world?

Jarai responds: I do not know.

Ashley Glass (303) wonders: What is your favorite thing to do?

TaZaria says: I like to do gymnastics.

Mariah (501) asks: What is your favorite sport?

Trey & Dante state: Our favorite

sport is basketball.

Asha (503): What present should I give my dad from his favorite football team the Buccaneers?

Kamryn & Dariana say: Get him a cap and t-shirt.

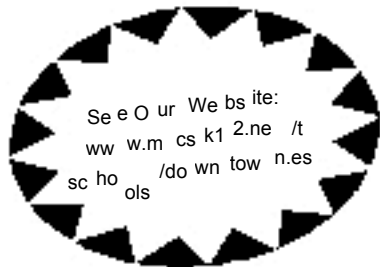
Do you have any questions, need information or advice? Please write these down and give them to Dr. Maxwell during your next library visit.

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Downtown Elementary Publishing Co.
Where Publishing Is Elementary!



A Part of Memphis
City Public Schools

Join Us: We Encourage You to Visit Downtown Elementary

Downtown Elementary School has just completed the process of compiling and analyzing our first five years of surveys, data and test scores. This information is being used to update our School Improvement Plan and to adjust our curriculum to meet the changing needs of all our students. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) awarded Downtown Elementary School accreditation with a high recommendation.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide an educational foundation that is transferable to real life, enabling students to be productive learners who excel academically and socially.

Our Beliefs Include:

- All students can learn and be successful when they are actively involved in learning
- Student learning is the chief priority of our school and the focus of all decisions
- Involvement of the family and community stakeholders is critical for success

The members of the 2008-2009 DTE Newspaper Staff are: Adrian Clarkson-Handley, Kenard Harms, Terrell Geeter, Roland Donnelly-Bullington, Nicholas Todd, Lauren Taylor, Ayanna Goodrich, Mallory Boykins, Jarai Boykins, Desmond Johnson, Tazaria Gibbs, Matthew McGugan, Jessica Williams, Trinity Walker, Trevor Maxwell, Kamryn Martin, Jessica Liddell, Kennedy Hall, Dariana Martre, Taylor Price, Tony Olden, Angel Williams, Haven Hughlett, Dante Donaldson, Trey Winters, Gerrica Neal, Tyra Akoto, & Jada Akoto. The newspaper club is one of the Downtown Elementary enrichment programs. Dr. D. Jackson Maxwell is the faculty sponsor. A special thanks to Blake Fontenay, a reporter for The Commercial Appeal for his exemplary volunteer work and Timothy Cain for his expert assistance in making the Downtown Elementary School Newspaper a reality.

What's New at Downtown Elementary

edited by The Newspaper Staff

Downtown Elementary School is having another spectacular year. We have just passed the 100th day of school and the teachers and students are still very excited about learning and continue to receive the praise and accolades to prove it.

A few of the reasons for our pride include our highly professional staff that is dedicated to helping children succeed in school. We have 4 Rotary Award-winning teachers, 3 National Board Certified Teachers and 6 National Board candidates. Over 50 volunteer tutors are available to assist students through our Tutoring Center. Downtown Elementary offers quality enrichment activities before and after school. These include chorus, piano, strings, art, ballet, drama, geography, martial arts, newspaper and science club.

Our professional staff include a wide range of support staff who serve many student interests and needs.

These include weekly art, music, library, Spanish, Physical Education and computer classes. We have a certified Guidance Counselor, speech and physical therapist, psychologist, inclusive resource program, Tutoring Center director, and onsite YMCA and extended care programs.

Downtown Elementary has one of the largest CLUE (Creative Learning in a Unique Environment) programs of any school in the area. Approximately 18% of the school's students attend twice-weekly CLUE classes taught by three

full-time CLUE teachers.

Finally, Downtown Elementary has been adopted by some of Memphis' leading organizations and businesses. The Downtown Rotary Club, First Tennessee/ Horizon Bank, Fogelman YMCA, St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Performa Entertainment Real Es-

Downtown Elementary:
We Rise About the Rest!



tate, Inc., and the Memphis Redbirds have all chosen to adopt Downtown Elementary School. They provide support for our programs in a variety of ways such as tutors, financial assistance, school supplies, incentives, clothes drives, motivational speakers, transportation, and service on the Leadership Council.

Downtown Elementary is a unique school whose mission is to assure success for every student.