



DOWNTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Extraordinary Learning Abounds at Downtown Elementary School!

The students at Downtown Elementary Optional School are beginning another fantastic school year. This is the 6th year since Downtown Elementary opened in the heart of the city. The year has already been a busy one with many new initiatives and educational challenges being addressed.

Downtown Elementary began with a visit on the first day from the new Mem-



**Downtown Elementary:
Shining Bright in the
Heart of Memphis!**

phis City Schools Superintendent Kriner Cash and Memphis School Board President Tomeka Hart. The visit was spotlighted on several local news networks and clips are still being aired on Channel 5 News.

The Downtown Elementary School enrollment is approximately 680 students for pre-kindergarten through 6th grade. The school has implemented AIMS testing to benchmark and monitor student learning in Math and Reading. Although MCS has dropped the district sponsored Accelerated Reader (AR), Downtown Elementary

chose to continue funding this popular incentive based program. Once every six weeks, students are allowed to redeem their AR points at our AR Store. Recognition will also be awarded to the top male and female AR readers at the Honors Programs.

Downtown Elementary School's mission statement says: 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. As always, learning is exciting at Downtown Elementary. Please feel free to drop in and observe for yourself. *By Dr. Maxwell & Newspaper Staff.*

**Downtown Elementary
Publishing Co.**

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Special points of interest:

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

Inside this issue:

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Let's Learn About Our Newspaper Staff

My name is Trinity Walker. I am in 303. I was born on February 16, 2000. I love animals. I have loved animals ever since I was a baby. Every time I see an animal that has been abused or harmed in any way, I want to just cry. My wish is that I will make a difference in the world.

My name is Adrian Clarkson Handley. My hobby is

poke'mon. I like how they come in different shapes, sizes and colors. My favorite food is pizza because I like the cheese and pepperoni. I know how to make pizza. You roll out bread then add tomato sauce, cheese, and cut a red, fat pepperoni sausage and put it on top. Then, you bake it and when it is finished we can eat it!

Hi, my name is Lauren Taylor. I am 8 years old. When I first

started school this year, I could not believe I had made it to 3rd grade. My teachers names are Ms. Turner who is new to this school and Ms. Hendrix. Ms. Turner and Ms. Hendrix are nice. I had a great time on my first day of third grade. I have been dancing for 6 years and I have been in 12 competitions. My first one was weird because we performed Tina Turner and Aladdin.

Meet a Few of Downtown Elementary's Excellent Teachers

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

I am Jada and I interviewed Janis Ellen Tate Pankey. She was born in January. She has a dog named Rocky who is a Springer Spaniel.

Ms. Pankey loves foods from other countries because of the flavors and spices. She loves to read Harry Potter books, so she care share the stories. The color yellow makes her happy. She enjoys watching movies with Meryl

Streep in them. Meryl Streep is also her favorite actress. She likes the movie E.T. By Jada (404)

Trey interviewed Mr. Ronnie Young who works as a teacher assistant and in the extended care program. He went to Gram-

bling State University. He has taught pre-k through college level classes. He does not have any kids.



Bright People!

Mr. Young's favorite show is the Three Stooges because it is a good comedy. The *Bible* is his favorite book because it tells the greatest story ever. His favorite childhood toy was his bicycle because it was a challenge to ride it. He likes fishing because it is relaxing. Mr. Young has broken a bone in the past. When he

was a kid he wanted to be a doctor because a doctor saved his dog's life. By Trey (501)

Sam interviewed 2nd grade teacher Cythnia Hamilton. Her birthday is September 16. She is from Pennsylvania and likes the snow. She also likes California and its mountains and

ocean.

Ms. Hamilton likes all colors because they make the world a prettier place. Tiger Lilies are her favorite plant because they are vibrant and beautiful! She likes art because it let's you see someone else's perspective. She is good at cooking because she had good teachers.

Ms. Hamilton does not have a Television. She does not like seafood or bats. She likes magic because it makes you think. By Sam (304)

Scholastic Book Fair held at Downtown Elementary!

Congrats to Partners in Education (PIE) and the efforts of Ms. Bennett to further reading and literacy!

PEOPLE WHO WE ADMIRE

by the Newspaper Staff

Hi, I interviewed my mom. Her name is Kim Mason. She was born on October 9th. My mom works at Third Party Solution. She helps poor people by giving them clothes. She works a lot.

My mom's favorite hobby is reading. Her favorite state is California. She is not getting married. The person my mom most admires is her mother and she wants to be like her. By Nicholas (404)

I interviewed Kiva Melaine Jones. She was born in Memphis, TN. She had a Ger-

man Shepherd when she was growing up. Her favorite landmark is the Golden Gate Bridge. It has been one of her favorites since she was a child. She has met Oprah Winfrey.

Ms. Jones' favorite job is being a parent because it is so rewarding. Her favorite movie is *Soul Food* because it shows love is the bond that keeps a family together. The 4th of July is her favorite holiday because as a kid, she celebrated it with family, fireworks,

food, and friends. By Jada (404)

I interviewed my mother, Sandra Lynn Bailey Chism. Her birthday is December 6th. She is a case manager at TLC. She is married to my father, Robert Hudson Chism III. She was born, raised and went to school in Jackson, Mississippi. She attended Alcorn State University and the University of Memphis. She likes spending time with her grandparents in the country. She has one sibling. Her hobbies are sewing and cooking. She likes reading. By Deja (603)

Achievements Abound At Downtown Elementary School

Downtown Elementary is once again at the forefront of achievement. Students and teachers alike have recently been recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in education and the community.

Second grade teacher Fredha Feaster was awarded Special Recognition for Outstanding Achievement in Science Education by the Memphis Organization of Science Teachers. She was honored at a Rose Reception at the Memphis Botanic Garden.

John McKissack, 5th grade, spent three weeks last summer at Northwestern University in Chicago. He participated in the

University's Center for Talent Development. He learned about algebra shortcuts that are usually taught in middle or high school. "I lived in a dormitory and played logic games," said John. "I loved the experience."

This summer, two other students attended the National Young Scholars Program. Demarcus King and Malik Jabati attended this week long program designed for the nation's most highly acclaimed elementary students. During the program, the students learned leadership skills while designing a museum for New York.

This year, over 60 grandparents took part in the 6th Annual Grandparents Day at Downtown Elementary. The grandparents got to spend the day meeting teachers, seeing what

the children do, and eating lunch with them in the cafeteria.

Teachers have continued their professional development in several ways. Eight teachers have been published in local newspapers and magazines. In addition to the three National Board Certified Teachers serving at Downtown Elementary, there are seven candidates working on earning certification this year. National Board Certification is reserved for teachers who attain the highest level of professional competence. Currently, only about 10% of teachers nationally have earned this elite distinction. Edited by the Newspaper Staff

Our Stories & Lists by the Newspaper Staff

Jatoiya Ham'n Turkey was a crazy, silly girl. She was very obsessed with pickles. She loved pickles so much that every minute, every hour and every day she ate and smelled like pickles. One day she saw that there were no more pickles in her jar. She was sad. Then she had an idea, "I will grow a pickle tree!"

By Trinity (303)

Here is a list of The Library ABC's so you can play the game with your friends and family.

Almanac; Biography; Computers; Dictionary; Encyclopedia; Fiction; Games; History; Illustrator; Journal; Knowledge; Library; Magazines; Nonfiction; Overdue; Publisher; Quiet; Reference; Subject; Thesaurus; Unabridged; Volumes; Write; Xylophone; Year; Zero; And That's All We Got!

By Jarai (504)

My name is Tazaria Gibbs. I went to Chicago with my mother and grandmother. It was fun. I went to Downtown Chicago. It was big! I went swimming. We went out to eat and the food was so good. We stayed for four days.

By Tazaria (402)

MY SUMMER VACATION

Last summer I went to my grandparents house in Michigan. My sister and I stayed there for almost a month! We went to a sleep-away camp for a week. It was a lot of fun. After we came back, we went to Cedar Point. Cedar Point is an amusement park. It has 14 roller coasters! My favorite ride was the Magnum. It went almost straight down. My second favorite ride was the Millennium Force. It went exactly straight down! That was my summer vacation. The End.

By Roland (401)

Christmas

Two o'clock in the morning and Christian could not go to sleep. Her mom pleaded and asked her to go to sleep. She was bored but destined to see who was leaving presents under the tree. Little did she know, she did fall asleep. When she woke up, presents were all over the floor. You-know-who had

even sat beside her on the couch and sang an old Christmas carol while she slept. She never saw a thing!

By Jada (404)

Kennedy's Favorite Celebrities

1. Chris Brown
2. Selena Gomez
3. Miley Cyrus
4. Nick and Joe Jonas
Destiny's Child

Hurray for all the students, parents, teachers and stakeholders who contributed to the Box Top\$ for Education Drive!

Unscrambles, Brain Teasers and Activities

Games: A Word Search by Jada

C G O L D F I S H
A A C A D E M Y R
R E D O L L S R J
D A N C E O F F G
S E P O R P M U J
L X C V M L F T P

Find these games: 1. Dolls; 2. Cards; 3. Jump Rope; 4. Dance Off; 5. Academy; 6. Goldfish

Jokes by Tony, Kamryn & Tyra

1. Why can't you play cards with a cheetah?
2. Why can't you ever trust a lion?
3. If you want to meet Tyra Banks, who should you see?
4. If you want a candy cane, who should you see?

A: 1. They cheat too much; 2. They li a lot.; 3. Tyra Akoto; 4. Mr. Cain

Riddles by Kenard & Terrell

- Q: Why was 6 afraid of 7?
A: Because 7 8 9.
- Q: Why did the chicken cross the road?
A: To stop the ninjas from attacking the world.
- Q: Who is the king of all burgers?
A: Burger King
- Q: Why did the chicken cross the road?
A: To get away from the KFC men.

Dates to Remember: Things Going On at Downtown Elementary

Nov. 12	Report Cards Issued
Nov. 14	K-6 Honors Programs
Nov. 26-28	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 9	Holiday Program/PIE Meeting
Dec. 13	Bellamy Baskets
Dec. 18	1st Semester Ends
Dec. 19-Jan. 2	Winter Break
Jan. 5	2nd Semester Begins
Jan. 14	Report Cards Issued
Jan. 16	K-6 Honors Pograms
Jan. 19	MLK Jr. Holiday

Unscramble the Teachers

1. D A L I D R E G
2. I S M H T R E S
3. U N W D R E I C H L
4. A N P E Y K

By Trevor (304)

Answers: 1. Aldridge; 2. Smithers; 3. Wunderlich; 4. Pankey

Fill in the Vowels: Teachers-Insby Jarai

1. C__ch W__ll__s
2. M__. Sc__tt
3. M__. B__ggs
4. M__. C__n
5. M__. T__rn__r

Top 10 PS2 Games

By Matt, Tony & Nicholas

1. Star Wars Force Unleashed
2. Lego Indiana Jones
3. Naruto Ultimate Ninja 3
4. Star Wars Lego
5. Shiolen Dragons 2
6. Super Smash Brothers
7. Sonic the Hedgehog
8. Sonic Heroes
9. Madden NFL 2008
10. Dragon Ball Z



Fun for One and All!

Meet Some of Downtown Elementary's Outstanding Students

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

I interviewed Tony Curtis Olden. He is eight years old. His favorite color is blue. Tony's favorite pair of pants are jeans because they are blue. Tony's favorite teacher is Ms. Smithers because she is nice.

Tony's favorite type of car is a convertible because his dad has one. He likes pizza and Big K. Tony's favorite show is Sponge Bob because it is funny. His favorite dream is when he went to Candyland. It was fun. He thinks grizzly bears are cool. By Mallory (303)

I interviewed Lucy Davis. She lives in Memphis on Looney Avenue. Her best friend's name is Mary. Lucy likes to read because it is fun. Her favorite book is *Strawberry Shortcake*. Gold is her favorite color because it is shiny. She likes to get roses and wear them in her hair.

Her favorite actor is Blue Bug because she is pretty. She thinks Sponge Bob is silly and that is why it is her favorite show. Her favorite web show is icarly.com which she thinks is funny.

Wang's has good chicken and shrimp, and that is why it is Lucy's favorite place to eat. Her favorite food is chocolate because it is very sweet. She likes chocolate milk as a drink. Her favorite ice cream flavor is chocolate because it tastes just like a chocolate bar. By Trevor (304)

I interviewed Matthew Alexander Campbell. He was born on June 24th. He is in the 5th grade. His teacher is Ms. Thompson. He has five siblings. He would like a mohawk because it would look cool on him.

Matthew's favorite runner is Usian Bolt. He admires Michael Jordan because he is famous. His favorite actor is Shrek because he is funny. His favorite animal is a dog because dogs are nice and smart. He does not like books. He thinks they are boring. His best friend is Desmond Johnson. His favorite state is Texas because it has lots of space. His favorite city and place to go is New York. By Desmond Johnson (403)

The person I interviewed was Derick Saulsberry. He is 8 years old. He was born in Tennessee. His favorite state is Texas because his cousins live there. His favorite place to be is home because it is comfortable. He is in 3rd grade and his teacher is Ms. Hendrix. His favorite vacation spot is Florida because it has beaches.

Derick's favorite restaurant is Olive Garden because it has good foods. His favorite food is chicken and I like chicken, too. He likes to watch *The Suite Life of Zach and Cody* because he thinks it's funny. He likes to play his PSP because it has a lot of games. His favorite sport is football because he likes to make touchdowns.

Derick's favorite movie is "The Tempta-



Fantastic Kids!

tions." He likes to play checkers because it is fun. His favorite website is Nickelodeon because it has Sponge Bob. His favorite animal is a cheetah. His favorite planet is Earth because it is a good place to live. By Dante (403)

I interviewed Irene Marie Southgate. She was born in St. Louis. Her favorite teacher is Ms. Porter because she always gives her suckers. When she grows up, she wants to be a 5th grade teacher because she likes 5th grade classes. Her favorite friend is Jack because they always play basketball with each other. She also like Vanessa.

Irene's favorite color is red because she likes red jewelry and clothes. Her favorite thing to do is shop because she likes to buy clothes. Her favorite character is Bumble Bee. Her favorite vacation spot is Disney World because she likes to see the stars there. By Jessica (301)

Velincia's full name is Velincia Lynn Davis and she is from Memphis. She is in the 3rd grade. Her teacher's name is Ms. Turner. She has a fish named Pebbles. She wants to be a pro cheerleader. She loves movies and pepperoni pizza. Her favorite song is Now or Never. By Taylor (303)

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

Haiku's and Poems By Downtown Elementary Students

Memphis

Memphis is so great
It's an awesome place to be
No place is better
Welcome to Memphis, Tennessee
By Jonquil (602)

FedEx Forum

Come on, they are here
They are performing tonight

At this place right here.

By Kiara (603)

Downtown Students

Some are calm and still
We are all a family
We are the future
By Kristie (602)

Downtown Elementary

Downtown is pretty.

I love to go to school there.

I love Downtown School.

By T'Yanna (503)

Peabody Place

It has left Memphis
You could play games and eat food
Isaac Hayes was there.
By Bria (603)

Ask a Student: Questions and Advice

by The Newspaper Staff

Cinnaeya (501) asks: What do I do if my friend is a copycat?

Kamryn & Dariana reply: Tell her to stop or she are not really my friend.

Jordan (203) wonders: How do you recycle?

Kennedy & Taylor answer: Do not put it in the trash can, you save it.

Jayla (401) ponders: What do I do if my baby brother pinches me?

Donte says: Tell your mom.

Sydney (204) asks: Where is a good place to go?

Jada states: Disney World is a good place to go.

Deja (603) asks: What should I do if I have

a friend who is treating me wrong?

Lauren & Mallory respond: You should still be nice to them.

Demetri (401) asks: How do you tell people to be quiet when the teacher is talking because I can not hear what the teacher is saying?

Trevor & Adrian say: Give them a letter that says, "Be quiet."

Makiya (603): What should I do if a friend is getting on my nerves but she has a sensitive

heart?

Mallory & Lauren state: Talk to her.



Answers to your mail

Great Questions about Pets & Animals

by The Newspaper Staff

Joshua (401) asks: If a dog will not listen to you, what should you do?

Trey & Dante say: You need to train him more.

Montera & Madison (204) asks: How do you train a dog?

Jada states: Given him lots of treats when he is good.

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

Trey & Dante state: You need to buy one.

Mazzy (401) asks: How can you train your dog to walk on his back legs like people do?

Trevor says: You hold up its front legs and practice walking him.

Trinity (303) wonders: If you had a choice of anything in the world, what would it be?

Trey & Dante state: We would want a trillion dollars and maybe, a dog.



Got Questions?
Please send them to us for answers!

Ideas for Holiday Gifts and Presents

by The Newspaper Staff

Jierani (503) asks: What would you buy a teacher for her birthday?

Dariana & Kamryn reply: You can give her M&Ms. If it is a man, give him a t-shirt and a cap.

Morghan (401): What would be the perfect gift for a boy?

Trey & Dante state: It depends on what kind of a boy he is.

Kobe (204) wonders: What should I

give my brother for Halloween?

Jada says: You should give him lots of candy.

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

Lauren & Mallory answer: Ask for an iPod.

Michael (401) : What is Halloween?

Adrian & Trevor state: It is a holiday.

Jermaine (303) asks: What is a good

book to get someone?

Nicholas & Desmond say: Get them one of the *Captain Underpants* books.

Lukas (202) asks: What should I give my little brother, Thomas?

Kenard & Roland answer: You should give him a Thomas the Train Board Game. Logan (401) What should I give my cousin for his birthday?

Adrian & Trevor: Give him a Wii with Wii games.

Games & Sports Questions

by The Newspaper Staff

Kyla (303) asks: What is a good game?

Nicholas & Desmond state: Sonic Unleashed and Shadow Unleashed are good games.

Dilon (603) asks: Who are the Ohio State Buckeyes and Missouri quarterbacks and running backs?

Lauren & Mallory state: We do not know. Maybe you could look them up on the Internet.

Cameron (303) wonders: Do you like sports?

Desmond & Nicholas answer: Yes!

April (603) wants to know: What is

your favorite basketball team?

Mallory & Lauren answer: We like the Grizzlies!

Anonymous: What is the best Wii game?

Trey & Donte say: Naruto

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

Downtown Elementary Publishing Co.

Downtown Elementary School
Attn.: Dr. D. Jackson Maxwell
10 N. Fourth Street
Memphis, TN 38103

Phone: 901.416.8400
Fax: 901.416.8406
Email: maxwellj01@k12tn.net

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 Harris, 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, Sam Skyles, 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, an editorial writer at *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 Happening at the Library Edited by The Newspaper Staff

The Downtown Elementary School Library has been a very busy place again this year. Dr. D. Jackson Maxwell, the Downtown Elementary Library Media Specialist, has coordinated a number of projects that support and extend student learning.

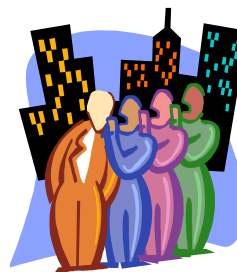
Dr. Maxwell facilitated the school's effort for Read for the Record. On October 2nd, nearly 150 pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students, teachers and parents simultaneously read the book *Corduroy*. This was part of a national effort to break the Guinness World Record for the largest group reading of the same book. Approximately, 12,000 Memphians and 400,000 people nationally are projected to have participated.

The Downtown Elementary Library is sponsoring for the 5th year our school's participation in the Grizzlies

Reading Challenge as a part of the National Basketball Association's Read to Achieve. The nearly month long program encourages children to spend time reading and offers rewards to those who do.

The library is open every morning at 8:15 am for students interested in exchanging their library books or checking out a second one. The morning check-out is staffed by eight student assistants who expressed an interest in the library and were trained to help other students locate and checkout books.

The Newspaper Club is in its 6th straight year. Dr. Maxwell facilitates 30 students who research, write, and edit



Achieving Educational Excellence with A Little Help from Our Friends

this quarterly newspaper. Blake Fontenay, an editorial columnist for the *Commercial Appeal*, has graciously given his time along with 2nd grade teacher Timothy Cain to make this publication possible.

Finally, the library is encouraging parents and community members to donate funds to purchase a book in a student's or loved one's honor.

The recipient will have a book with a bookplate naming them added to the library collection. The donor will be sent a postcard notifying them when the book is available. Money can be donated to recognize student academic or social achievement, special honors, birthdays, grade progression, or as a memorial. Thanks for supporting this program.