



# Monday Memo

A newsletter for the employees of Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools

February 2, 2009

*“Success is not  
the key to  
happiness.  
Happiness is  
the key to  
success. If you  
enjoy what  
you’re doing  
you will be  
successful.”-  
Albert S*

Dates to  
Remember:

- Feb. 1-28 –  
Black History  
Month
- Feb. 2 –  
SLC Late  
Arrival Day
- Feb. 14 –  
Valentine’s  
Day
- Feb. 16 –  
Students do  
not report

## Celebrating Black History Month, Feb. 1-28

The month of February is Black History Month, a month-long celebration established to recognize the history, achievement and life of African Americans.

The name of the month originated from Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a graduate of Harvard University. He decided to take on the challenge of writing about African Americans in the nation's history books. In 1915, Woodson established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History) and a year later founded the Journal of Negro History.

In 1926, Woodson launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of African Americans throughout American history. Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who influenced the African American population, Frederick Douglass (Feb. 14), an escaped slave who went on to become one of the foremost black abolitionists and civil rights leaders, and Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12), who signed the Emancipation Proclamation. In 1976, Negro History Week expanded into Black History Month.

## Food Allergy prevention in schools

As many have heard and read in the news, many grocers have pulled peanut butter off the shelves due to a nationwide Salmonella outbreak.

Fortunately, Salmonella has not been found in MNPS, however peanut butter is one of many serious food allergies among students. According to the Food Allergy Initiative, the number of U. S. children with peanut allergy doubled from 1997 to 2002. Along with peanut butter, children can have serious reactions to eggs, milk, tree nuts, soy, and fish.

Principals, teachers and administrative staff should work with parents to be aware of students’ allergies.

To learn more about MNPS food allergies policy visit <http://www.mnps.org/AssetFactory.aspx?did=8576>.

For more information on food allergies in schools check out [www.foodallergy.org/schoolguidelines.pdf](http://www.foodallergy.org/schoolguidelines.pdf) or [www.faiusa.org](http://www.faiusa.org)

**ATTENTION:** Many of you attended the historical 2009 Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C. If you have any photographs of your students, organizations or schools participating please email them to Kina Cleveland at [kina.cleveland@mnps.org](mailto:kina.cleveland@mnps.org)

## National School Counseling Week, Feb. 2-6

### Employee Spotlight



**Susan Waters**  
Band Teacher at  
Oliver Middle School

This week, the district would like to recognize Susan Waters, band teacher at Oliver Middle School, for Employee Spotlight.

Mrs. Waters lives by the motto "making band the thing to do." She has been teaching band for more than 20 years. She picked up her first instrument in the fifth grade, and music has been with her ever since. Throughout her career, every middle school or high school where she has taught offered band and has seen a tremendous increase in participation under her direction.

At Oliver Middle School, Mrs. Waters started Beginning Band with just seven students. By the end of the first semester, she had 75 students learning to play an instrument. With four years under her belt at Oliver Middle, she now has more than 250 band students.

National School Counseling Week will be celebrated Feb. 2-6. This year's theme is "School Counselors: Making a Difference."

School counselors are an integral part of the educational process that enables all students to achieve success. School counselors actively work to help prepare each student to succeed in a diverse, changing world by providing counseling support that is responsive to each student's talents, interests, and challenges. Currently, MNPS serves its students by providing more than 230 counselors across the district.

In appreciation of our school counselors, MNPS would like to recognize key changes that will significantly impact our students:

1. Restructuring of Central Office administrative supports for school counselors - These changes will lead to improved services to counselors and the students/schools they represent.

2. Name Change - MNPS is changing its terminology as it pertains to counselors. These professionals will no longer be called guidance counselors, but rather school counselors. School counselors do provide guidance, but they also perform duties related to technology, staffing, materials, etc. (Preconditions); guiding principals, missions and visions, program definitions, etc (Foundation); use of data, action plans, management systems, etc. (Management Systems); guidance curriculum, individual student planning, system support, etc. (Delivery Systems); and information about MEASURE, SPARC, and other results-oriented reports (Accountability).

3. Focusing on Implementation of State and National Model & Standards to better develop all students academically, personally/socially and assist in career development so each child is equipped to live and work in the 21st century.

## 10 Things you didn't know about... Fall-Hamilton EOS



1. Fall-Hamilton has many family ties. In fact, a few teachers are now teaching second generation students.

2. Hidden Valley Ranch Dressing chose Fall Hamilton out of the entire state, awarding the school \$10,000 and a year's supply of light ranch dressing, as a part of Love Your Veggies Nationwide School Lunch Campaign.

3. There is a rock climbing wall in the gym, and a Reader's Theater stage in the book room.

4. Fall-Hamilton's Family Resource Center (FRC) provides community resources and workshops for families.

5. Fall-Hamilton has a full time Centerstone counselor who provides support for Fall-Hamilton's students and families.

6. An outstanding network, Parental Support and Involvement, gives parents

and teachers the opportunities to connect and socialize through various activities.

7. Fall-Hamilton is the National Title I Distinguished School for 2007-2008.

8. Fall-Hamilton's special education teacher is using the inclusion model for special education students.

9. Fall-Hamilton has many programs and community participation that includes: Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Lunch Buddies, Vanderbilt tutors, Peer Assisted Learning Strategies (P.A.L.S.), Friends Learning In Pairs (F.L.I.P.), PENCIL tutors, PBS Reading Buddies program, Reading is Fundamental (RIF), Pencil Math tutors, and more.

10. Fall-Hamilton's faculty and staff care about each other and are willing to work with others. They are AWESOME teachers who work super hard!

