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PUBLIC EDUCATION NEEDS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & LEADERSHIP

JTG EXPANDS INTO TWO MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Mayor Karl Dean and Metro Schools administrators joined PENCIL Foundation staff at Wright Middle School in February to announce the start of the new Middle School Career Exploration

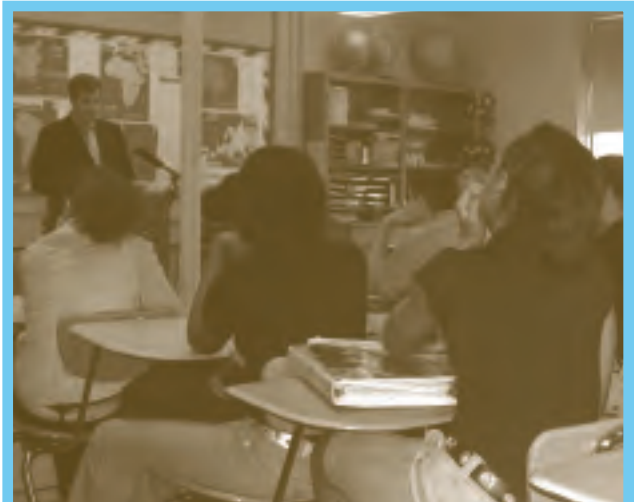
Program that will be piloted at Cameron and Wright Middle Schools. The after-school program, which will serve 20 seventh grade students two days per week at each school, is a partnership between the Mayor's Office, PENCIL, Nashville Career Advancement Center and Metro Schools. It's supported by the mayor's Education First Fund.

"We are excited about the opportunities for students and the long-term affect their participation will have on the Nashville community," said Carmen Sparkman, director of PENCIL's Jobs for Tennessee Graduates Program.

The curriculum, led by a career specialist, is based on Jobs for America's Graduates and will include service-learning projects, internships, field trips and help with essential school and workplace skills such as leadership and communication. One unique part of the program is a 4-week summer camp for students.

"Principals and faculty members are thrilled to have an additional resource as they prepare students to make a smooth transition into high school," said Sparkman. "As students participate in hands-on career exploration activities, there will also be a focus on skills in communication, organization, studying, decision making and leadership development."

With a follow-up component incorporated into the program, the career specialist will maintain contact with each participating student during his or her 9th-grade year, ensuring a successful transition into high school. 📌



Mayor Karl Dean announces the launch of the Career Exploration Program at Wright Middle School.

OUR MISSION LINKING COMMUNITY RESOURCES WITH NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE ACHIEVE ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND PREPARE FOR LIFE

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MATH PARTNERS EXPANDS INTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

For 9 years, Math Partners has paired caring adults with groups of middle school students to provide extra support. This year, PENCIL has expanded the program into 16 elementary schools to meet the growing needs of the school district.

“For many years, we have known that children’s math scores plummet in middle school and have focused our Math Partners Program to help those students,” said Program Director Debby Gould. “This year, in response to requests from Metro Schools, we hope to intervene a little earlier and help third and fourth grade students who are faltering in math.”

Sarah Anderson, with Healthspring, has been working with a group of fourth-graders once a week at Bordeaux Elementary.

“The best part of tutoring is the connection with the kids and feeling like I am providing something that they need: focused attention and a true desire to see them succeed and to work patiently with them on trouble areas.”

In fact, some of the students have not returned to her sessions because their teacher feels they have improved academically.

“I do not know to what this can be attributed,” Anderson says. “But I hope that I have been a motivating factor in their learning of math.” 📚

PENCIL THANKS OUR MATH PARTNERS FUNDERS:

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LP PENCIL BOX REACHES ITS MILLION DOLLAR MARK

In February, LP PENCIL Box celebrated an incredible milestone – distributing \$1,000,000 worth of schools supplies to Nashville’s impoverished students. Thanks to all our donors and volunteers for making this program such a success! 📚



READING PARTNERS REPLICATED IN GRUNDY COUNTY

When Frank and Peggy Cregor learned about the need to improve literacy skills of students in Grundy County (TN) Schools, they wanted to help. They heard about the success of PENCIL's Reading Partners program and contacted Program Director Ann Johnston for guidance. They gathered support from the superintendent and sponsorship from the Rotary Club of Grundy County to launch a pilot program at Tracy City Elementary. Johnston provided an overview of Nashville's program to the Cregors and school staff and also conducted the first volunteer training.

The program is up-and-running, serving 60 students with 35 volunteers and they have plans to expand

to the other 5 elementary schools. A veteran retired teacher and volunteer with the school said, "This program is wonderful. We are already seeing a positive change in our students. This is the best program that I have seen to help the kids learn to read and to feel positive about themselves."

"Congratulations to Frank and Peggy for their hard work in getting their program off the ground and providing extra support to students in Grundy County," said Johnston. 🏡



*Frank and Peggy Cregor with
Donna Kerstetter, Tracy City
Elementary Reading Specialist*

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- ◆ *United Way of Metropolitan Nashville*

Many thanks and great gratitude to PENCIL and Ann Johnston for all your guidance and support in helping us begin a literacy program in Grundy County. Your organization was highly recommended... and we are deeply indebted to you for all your support.

— Frank and Peggy Cregor

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THANK YOU...

Thanks to generous donations from area libraries, our friends at Book 'EM and community donors, LP PENCIL Box had a stockpile of books just waiting to get into the hands of teachers. Our first annual Book Fair was a huge success! Teachers came out over spring break to pick up some free books for their classrooms. And this was in addition to the two shopping trips they get each year! Over 120 lucky teachers each recieved a classroom supply of Tennessee maps thanks to AAA, small camera bags and an opportunity to choose up to 30 books. In all, about \$10,000 worth of books were given away!



SEVERAL REALIZE “THE AMERICAN DREAM” WITH HELP OF HOMEBUYER CLASS

Denise King, a high school teacher and single mother of two children, is making her dream of homeownership a reality. She has her eye on a house and thanks to PENCIL's Fast Track Homebuyer Education Class she feels more confident about going through the purchase process.



Funded by United Way of Middle Tennessee and Citi Foundation, the class is held the third Saturday of the month from 9 – 4 p.m. Among the topics covered are budgeting, saving, choosing the right loan and selecting a home. Since July, 27 out of the 33 participants who have taken the class have purchased their first home. With the average price coming in at just over \$84,000, the economic impact on Davidson and surrounding counties is estimated at \$2.2 million.

King recommends the class and that first-time homebuyers “get educated and be prepared.”

“There is so much information out there and if you don't sit down and take the time to learn it, you may become a part of the statistics,” King said. “There are too many people getting put out of their homes because they didn't know everything they should have about homeownership.”

PENCIL thanks the following collaborating partners for helping to make the program a success: Pinnacle Financial Partners, Ace Inspections, Prime Lenders, Stewart Title, Century 21 Premier, Realty Association, State Farm, Keller Williams and Suntrust Bank.

For more information, contact: Jacque Green, jgreen@pencilfd.org or 242-3167, extension 259. 🏡

PENCIL IT IN!

BRAVO! Luncheon

*The Curb Event Center,
Belmont University
May 13, 11:30 – 1 p.m.*

A LITTLE NIGHT of MUSIC

*Country Music Hall
of Fame® and Museum
April 29, 6 p.m.*

Volunteer Appreciation Day

*LP PENCIL Box, 1300 56th Ave. N.
April 20*

Last Day of Metro Schools

May 21

PENCIL Board of Directors Meeting

*Martin Professional
Development Center
June 9, 7:30 - 9 a.m.*

RECYCLE AT EARTH DAY 2009

Come out and visit PENCIL and LP Building Products staff at this year's Earth Day Festival on April 18 and bring your gently used books, games and toys! This year's festival will feature several informational exhibits and activities aimed at educating the community about protecting the environment. Cartridge World will also make a donation to LP PENCIL Box for every used ink or toner cartridge dropped off at the booth. For more information on the festival, visit <http://www.nashvilleearthday.org>. 🏡



CELEBRATING NATIONAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK

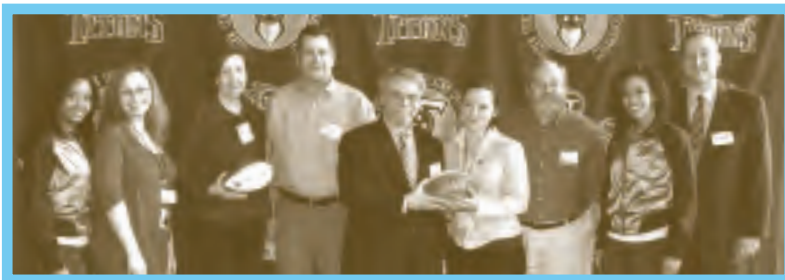


Thank you, PENCIL volunteers, for your gifts to children in Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools. Please join us Monday, April 20 from 2:00 - 5:30 p.m. at LP PENCIL Box. Meet our staff, volunteers and teachers, tour the store and enjoy some ice cream, gener-

ously donated by Purity Dairies. LP PENCIL Box is located at 1300 56th Ave. N. 🍷

TITANS GAME-DAY SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Tennessee Titans recognize LP Building Products and PENCIL for taking part in a game-day school supply drive. 🍷

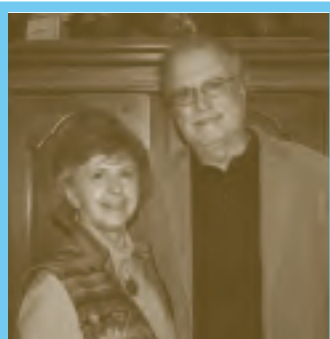


ARTIST SUPPORTS ARTS IN SCHOOLS

When acclaimed watercolor artist gail McDaniel and her husband, Ken, heard over and over from public school art teachers about the lack of funding for art programs and that in some cases, art classes were actually being cut from the curriculum, they wanted to help address the problem in a meaningful way. Over the past eight years, the McDaniel's have raised over \$65,000 in support of art education.

Each year, part of the proceeds of their fundraisers are earmarked for art supplies to be distributed through LP PENCIL Box. Their desire is that more students will have access to the many advantages of a successful art education program. They want students to have the tools they need - paints, watercolors, brushes, art paper, etc. LP PENCIL Box received just over \$5700 this year from the McDaniels and \$20,000 has been given to the program total.

Not only is their work based on raising funds for teachers, but in recognizing them for outstanding work in the lives of students. Teachers attend a special awards ceremony held each February in the McDaniel's home. It's important to note that the McDaniel's give away every dollar of the funding they raise, absorbing the expense of the parties, supplies and postage themselves. Thank you for your support of the arts! 🍷



gail and Ken McDaniel

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Susan Pennisi
Tracy Perlman
Richard Petty
Driving Experience
Powers Management
Praxis
PRIME 108
PrimeTrust Bank
Publix
Eberhard Ramm
Randstad
REI

Regions Bank
Reliant Bank
Jerry Rice
LeAnn Rimes
Robert-Orr Sysco
Susan Robinette
Rogers Group
Leela Roof
Lisa Roy
Cassandra Ruotolo
Martine Sanders
L.P. Sanford
School Specialty
SESAC
Kim Shaw
Vicki Shaw
Katrina Shepardson
Shindigs & Celebrations
Shop at Home (EAC)
Shurman Fine Papers
Beth Sloan
Tish Smedley
Joe Smith
Smithson-Craighead Academy
The Sommet Center
Sony BMG - Nashville
Southwest Airlines
Southwestern/Great American
Springs Industries, Inc.
Staples, Hermitage
Starbucks
Starbucks, Belle Meade
Staunch & Jennings
STYX
SunTrust
Super Talk 99.7 WTN
Target, Brentwood
Tennessee Teachers
Credit Union

Tennessee Titans
The Hermitage
The Mad Platter
Restaurant and Catering
The Renaissance Center
The Tennessean
The UPS Foundation
Thomas & Maryle Albin
Billy Bob Thornton
& the Boxmasters
Tiffany & Company
TomKats
Jordan Tootoo
Turnberry Associates
Ethelyne Turner
Cheryl Turner
Union Station Hotel
Unisource/Paper Plus
Keith Urban
Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical
& Translational Research
Vanderbilt University
Medical Center
Vector Management
Verizon Wireless
Visual Risk Technologies
Vulcan Materials
Walgreens, Bell Road
Wal-Mart, Hermitage
Suzanne Warner
Watkins College of Art &
Design
Francis Watts
Angela Wheeler
White Castle
Connie & Ed Williams
Judee Ann Williams
Mark Wills
Chris Young
Vince Young



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