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PUBLIC EDUCATION NEEDS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & LEADERSHIP

LP[®] PENCIL BOX CELEBRATES GRAND REOPENING



Mayor Bill Purcell, Metro Schools Director Pedro Garcia and other special guests were on-hand to celebrate the grand reopening of LP PENCIL Box. The free school supply store that benefits underprivileged students reopened August 1 at McCann Alternative Center, located at 1300 56th Avenue North.

The new store is nearly four times the size of the previous space at Hickman, measuring a whopping 3000 square ft! This added square footage will allow us to serve even more children this year. Thank you Metro Schools for providing the space.

Principals who attended the ceremony were the first to shop, while regular teacher shopping hours began later that day. Thank you Dollar General for providing store shelving and installing a bar-coding system to make shopping fast and efficient! 📦

NEW SHOPPING HOURS

LP PENCIL Box is now open to all elementary, middle and high school classroom teachers, one shopping trip per semester.

The new shopping hours are:

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Teachers must make an appointment online at:
www.pencilfoundation.org/lppb

Volunteers are needed from 2 – 6 p.m. each day!

WHAT EDUCATORS ARE SAYING...

LP PENCIL Box has been an enormous benefit to our teachers and students. Having a resource for necessary school supplies, particularly in schools in which most students' families are unable to provide them, has been a true blessing! Teachers give so much of their own time and resources to assist children. Free shopping for needed resources is a true gift! Many thanks to all the donors and to LP PENCIL Box for this gift to MNPS students and teachers.

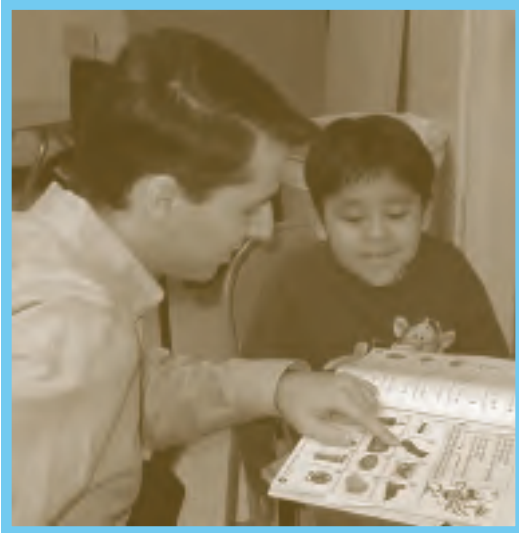
– Sharon Elrod
Amqui Elementary School

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

READING IS SUCCEEDING!

PENCIL's Reading Partners program is a popular one with volunteers. Since the program's launch in 2000, volunteers have provided over 15,500 students in Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools with one-on-one assistance and interactive read-aloud sessions. These activities increase children's reading ability, confidence and enjoyment of reading. In the 2006-'07 school year, Reading Partners surpassed its goal of providing one-on-one tutoring to 500 students, serving 531 students. In addition, Reading Partners served 1,684 students through classroom readers.

Help us reach even more students. If a student cannot read fluently by the



third grade, their chances of getting behind academically increases. If you have 30 minutes a week, you can change the academic future of a child and build their self-esteem!

This program is made possible by Martha and Bronson Ingram Foundation Advised Fund, Comcast Foundation, Creative Artists Agency, The Cal Turner Family Foundation, The Memorial Foundation, Dollar General Corporation, Bank of America, Rogers Group, Inc., Alcoa/DixieWire, Marsh, and United Way of Metropolitan Nashville. 🏡

MATH PARTNERS A "DREAM OPPORTUNITY" FOR VOLUNTEERS

If you ask Vicki Jeffres what her overall experience was as a Math Partner at Dupont-Tyler Middle School, she would say "educational." Upon starting the program, she admits being a bit skeptical about the curriculum, but once she started meeting with her small group, she started to see it work.

"I really enjoyed making the connection with the kids," she said. "They were able to do it. They were learning math concepts in a way that they felt smarter and they enjoyed it."

As she began to build relationships with the students, Jeffres said it became very important to keep her weekly commitment because the students were very disappointed if she was unable to come. Jeffres also said she could see her students' self-images improving. "My favorite moment happened when one of the boys said he had taken home what we had done in our session and he was the only one at his house - including his parents - who could figure it out! He was so proud and it really motivated him."

Jeffres encourages others to make the volunteer commitment. "If someone was wondering if they should get involved as a Math Partner and they were hesitating, I would say that if you like children and like to teach, this is your dream opportunity. There is lots of communication, instant feedback and progress is very immediate." 🏡

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PENCIL'S VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR SAYS IT'S SIMPLE — VOLUNTEERING IS FUN!

One morning last year as I was walking my son down the crowded halls of Sylvan Park Elementary School, I made eye contact with another tall person. It was Stan, one of my favorite dads. As we passed he leaned over and said in a conspiratorial tone, "Most people have no idea how fun this place really is." Stan works at a toy store, so he ought to know.

Stan's statement pretty much sums up why you should become a PENCIL Volunteer at your local elementary school (Or mine, Sylvan Park Elementary located at 4800 Utah Avenue). But back to why it's great: first, kids are funny. Two years ago I was reading with a little girl and we came to the word "bib." She asked me what that was. When I told her she smiled broadly and said, "My gramma could use one of those!"

Second, kids are real. They won't wait till your six-month evaluation to let you know if something isn't working. I find this both refreshing and useful in helping them to read. Perhaps most importantly though, I've found that the vast majority of kids who need help are grateful when they get it. Another little girl for whom I'd bought a 2-for-a-dollar paperback in the fall looked up at me last spring and said "I read that book you gave me all the time." Wow.

Some folks might tell you that volunteering is a great way to give back to the community, a means of self-improvement, whatever. That's all true, but I'd be lying if I said those were my primary motives. In a grown-up world, I need fun. That's why I volunteer! 💧

By Nancy Nolan, PENCIL's Volunteer of the Year



Sue Spickard (center), PENCIL founder, stands with Nancy (L) and Michael (R) Nolan, PENCIL's Volunteer of the Year recipients

MARK YOUR CALENDARS... IT'S PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY!

Leading a school is a challenging job, especially in a large urban school district. Principal for a Day is an annual event that provides a great opportunity for business and community leaders to learn from a Metro Schools principal, the challenges and rewards of their job. If you have ever wondered how the school day has changed since you've graduated, sign up to be a Principal for a Day on **Thursday, October 11**. You'll be amazed at what you find!

Participants spend the morning at a Metro school where they will be introduced to staff, interact with students, observe classrooms and assemblies and whatever else the principals has in store. The day is unique to each school. Participants and their principals will attend a luncheon at Belmont University's Curb Event Center. To sign up, contact Nikki Troutman at 242-3167 x 231 or ntroutman@pencilfd.org. 💧

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“ADOPT-A-SHIFT” AND EARN SHOPPING TRIPS FOR TEACHERS!

LP PENCIL Box is volunteer-driven. Participation is vital to the success of the Program because volunteers are needed to stock the store as well as to help during shopping hours. We appreciate all the volunteers have done to make this program grow and succeed.

ADOPT-A-SHIFT

As an incentive, PTA's, PTO's, parents or friends can Adopt-A-Shift at LP PENCIL Box to earn free shopping trips for an eligible classroom teacher. A teacher leaves LP PENCIL Box with approximately \$100 worth of supplies per shopping trip! Adopting a shift is a wonderful way to give back to the teacher of your choice. Individuals and/or groups may take the opportunity to Adopt-A-Shift & earn a free shopping trip certificate for every 12 hours of volunteerism at LP PENCIL Box.

ADOPT-A-DAY

For individuals or groups who would like to volunteer on a consistent basis throughout the school term, we would love to have you join our volunteer family! We will develop a schedule for you. For example, you could adopt the first Tuesday of every month. This will allow us to have a consistent volunteer schedule as well as build a relationship with our volunteers! Please give us a call today!

Plenty of shifts are available! For more information call Sarah Killpack at 974-0438 or email at skillpack@pencilfd.org. 📞

JTG SPECIALISTS HONORED AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Three PENCIL Jobs for Tennessee Graduates (JTG) job specialists were honored for their outstanding work with students at the annual Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) conference. Five hundred specialists from across the nation attended the conference in Orlando. The JTG program is in 28 states and the District of Columbia.

Cheryl Windsor, specialist at Dickson High School was awarded for her efforts in follow up. Each specialist tracks the progress of JTG participants for 12 months following graduation. **Sandra Clardy** was awarded for making the greatest improvement in follow up with McGavock High students and **Lori Sharpe** received an award called “Above and Beyond” for her efforts at Hunters Lane High. Specialists received certificates and monetary awards. Congratulations to these job specialists, who truly make a difference in the lives of young people. PENCIL's JTG program graduated 95 percent of its students and the program's national graduation rate last year was 94 percent. 📞



BUILD MORE THAN MATH SKILLS WITH MATH PARTNERS

Middle school can be a tough time for students. They are making the leap from childhood to the pre-teen years and from an elementary schedule to one that has them changing classes several times a day. Some children get lost in the shuffle and their grades can reflect that. Math Partners is one way to reach these students with a positive mentoring relationship and assistance with academics. Math Partners work with a group of four students, which make math lessons fun and interactive. The students can help and encourage each other under the direction of a caring volunteer. All it takes is 45 minutes a week!

During the 2006-2007 school year, 108 Math Partner volunteers assisted 423 struggling middle school students. This is a growth of 67 percent over the prior year. ThinkLink tests indicate students involved in the program are making progress. Results from one targeted middle school with a 91 percent poverty rate indicated that all student participants met or exceeded their math goals for the year.

Help build math skills while you build relationships! 🍷

Math Partners is made possible by AT & T, Dell Foundation, The Oprah Winfrey Foundation, First Tennessee, Wal-Mart Foundation, Publix Super Markets Charities, Nashville Gas, Robert Orr-SYSCO and United Way of Metropolitan Nashville

BECOME A MATH PARTNER!

OVERVIEW: Work with a group of four middle school students on math skills once a week for 45 minutes for a total of 8-12 weeks. PENCIL provides a mandatory hour orientation session for volunteers where we will provide you with tutoring materials. We will assign you to a school that is convenient to either work or home.

ORIENTATIONS

To sign up for an orientation session, contact Debby Gould at 242-3167 x 235.

Two orientations have been scheduled and will take place at McCann Alternative Center, 1300 56th Avenue North.

September 18th
4:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

September 20th
12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Additional orientation times and dates will be posted on the web site at www.pencilfoundation.org

WHAT OUR VOLUNTEERS SAID ABOUT THE 2006-2007 MATH PARTNERS PROGRAM

- ◆ 91% believed that the program helped improve students' ability to do math.
- ◆ 94% reported that the mentoring relationships established with the students were important.
- ◆ 91% stated that the program gave students new confidence in their ability to tackle new math problems

PENCIL IT IN!

www.pencilfoundation.org

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Quarterly Meetings

September 21, 2007

7:30 to 9:00 a.m.

(McCann Alternative Learning Center; 1300 56th Avenue North)

December 7, 2007

7:30 ~ 9:00 a.m.

(Location TBD)

March 7, 2008

7:30 to 9:00 a.m.

(Stratford Comprehensive High School; 1800 Stratford Avenue)

June 6, 2008

7:30 to 9:00 a.m.

(Location TBD)

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