



April

Charging Times



2006

A Newsletter for the Mabry Middle School Chargers
Sponsored by the Mabry Middle School PTSA

A Message from our PTSA Co-Presidents

One might think that with only four weeks left of this school year we would all be taking a breath and getting ready to relax. But we're not quite there yet! We still have an action packed agenda at Mabry for the month of May. Please keep an eye on the newly refurbished marquee and check the Mabry webpage and the PTSA blog for up-to-date information.

- May 1-5 - Teacher Appreciation Week: The PTSA will be sponsoring several events for the school staff that week. Please have your students express their appreciation for their teachers in their own special way.
- May 1st - Information meeting for the parents of rising 6th grade students.
- May 4th – PTSA General Meeting will be held before the Spring Orchestra Concert.
- May 8-12 – PTSA Book Fair: The book fair will be open during the school day and will also have some evening hours during other school events that week. Please take advantage of the convenience of purchasing many of the summer reading books which will be available.
- May 8th – PTSA Committee Brunch: The PTSA executive board will be hosting a brunch for our committee chairs to honor their outstanding contributions to Mabry.
- May 15th – Mabry Volunteer Appreciation Brunch: Administrators will be hosting a brunch to thank the wonderful volunteers who help in so many ways during the school year.
- May 17th – 7th Grade Field Day
- May 18th – 6th Grade Field Day
- May 19th – 8th Grade Field Day and BBQ: PTSA will be hosting a BBQ as a fun and relaxing event for all 8th grade students following their field day events.
- May 25th – 8th Grade Dance: “A Starry Night in Central Park” is sure to be a memorable evening for our 8th grade students. It will be a wonderful way to celebrate their last night as 8th grade students!
- May 26th – LAST DAY OF SCHOOL! OK – now take a breath and then think about how you might like to get involved with activities at Mabry next year!

We still need several chairmen for PTSA committees for the 2006-07 school year. If you would like to be more involved, please contact one of us to discuss how your talents can be utilized to benefit the students at Mabry. Regardless of how much or how little time you can give, we have the right job for you!

We have had an extraordinary year serving the Mabry community and look forward to continuing with some of our projects next year. We could not have had such a productive year with the tremendous support of our executive board, the committee chairmen, the Mabry administrators and all of the volunteers who have supported us throughout the year. We simply could not do it without you. By working together, we can all make a difference and our school and children benefit!

Kelly Dunlap and Becky Johnson
PTSA Co-Presidents



ATTENDANCE REMINDER

Spring has sprung and so have student tardies.

Just a reminder that homeroom starts at 8:45 a.m.

Announcements start and attendance is taken at 9:10. If a student arrives at 9:10 or later, they must stop at the attendance office or welcome desk to sign in. When the line gets long, it takes time for the students to actually get to their lockers and then to class. ***School officially starts at 9:15 in 1st period and many students are missing the beginning of instruction because they have to stop to sign in.***

When a student arrives with time to organize their materials they are much more likely to have a good start to their day than those rushing in at the last minute. *Please try to get your children here by 9:00 to avoid the late sign-in delay.*

Mabry Media Center Inventory

We are looking for volunteers to help the Media Center personnel take inventory starting 5/15 through 5/23 ...your choice of hours.

If interested, please contact Gail Tramontanis at Lady4rb@aol.com or 770-587-4623. Also, if you are a current Media Center volunteer and would like to assist in addition to your regular monthly schedule, please contact Gail.

7th GRADE PARENTS

Please consider sending in a \$5 suggested donation to support the 8th Grade Dance. Your contribution will help fund a very special reception for our Mabry Middle School grads at their only end of middle school party.

You may make cash contributions to the locked cash box in the main office from May 1st -15th. Your support is greatly appreciated! Please know that the same tradition will honor your 7th grader next year.

We still need adult volunteers to help clean up from the dance on the last day of school, May 26th, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Please call Christina Hess at 770-565-8868 for more information.



DRIVER'S PERMITS

If you turn 15 before 8/14/06, and are planning to get your driver's permit this summer, the State of Georgia Department of Public Safety requires a Certificate of Attendance. These forms are available at Mabry's attendance office at a cost of \$2.00. If you have a summer birthday, you may get this form the last week of school through 5/31. You will not be able to get this certificate for summer birthdays past 5/31, so plan ahead.

MABRY SCHOOL COUNCIL

Nominations for Mabry School Council will be taken from Monday, April 24th through May 5th. You may nominate any parent or guardian of Mabry students including those of rising 6th graders. Forms maybe obtained from the school front office. Parent representatives serve a two year term.

Nominees will be placed on a ballot and voting will be held from Monday, May 8 through Tuesday, May 16th. You may come in to the front office to cast your vote, or vote at any of the evening productions during that time period.

MABRY FILM FESTIVAL

Thank you to all the fantastic volunteers who assisted with the Mabry Film Festival.

When the e-mail went out, you all responded. What a great group of volunteers! Mabry is truly fortunate to have such dedicated individuals.

Becky Johnson, Mabry PTSA Co-President





"A Starry Night in Central Park"
8th Grade Dance - May 25, 2006



"A Starry Night in Central Park" is shaping up to be a wonderful evening for the **Class of 2010!**

The evening will begin in the covered play area at 6:30 p.m. with the Parent Reception. Students and their parents should enter through the gym doors in the back parking lot. The Parent Reception will end promptly at 7:15.

The dance will begin at 7:15 and students will not be released until 9:30 p.m. Students will exit at the back bus exits after the dance to get their rides. The front doors will be locked.

Tickets will be \$12.00 and will be for sale before school on May 15, 16, 17, and 18.

We will NOT provide a photographer for this year's dance. We will instead provide a "photo-opportunity" area. Please bring your own cameras to use before and during the dance.

Our most pressing need for volunteers is on Wed the 24th and Thurs the 25th at 1:00 p.m. Due to traffic in the cafeteria, we are under a tight time line to get the cafeteria "transformed" into a magical place. We cannot physically get this done without help from many parents. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on one or both days of decorating! Thank you!

Julie McCollister and Judy Kimball

Math Skills & Summer Learning Loss

Once the final school bell rings dismissing students for the summer, thoughts of homework, tests and studying are long gone. As a parent you want your child to enjoy the summer, but the reality is the upcoming school year is just around the corner and children who do not engage in educational activities during the summer will experience learning loss—especially in math.

All young people experience at least a one month learning loss from spring to fall when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer. **Summer learning loss is more pronounced in math.** On average, students lose approximately 2.6 months of grade level equivalency in mathematical computational and problem solving skills over the summer months.

Basic math is truly a sequential process. Students must learn skills in a particular order and it is imperative that they don't move on to another skill until the previous skill is mastered. A lack of fundamental math skills makes it difficult to progress higher level math like pre-algebra and algebra. Is your child ready for the math classes they face next year? Below are key questions to ask:

- Is your child quick to voice frustration regarding math?
- Does your child frequently struggle with math homework?
- Were your child's report card grades unsatisfactory?
- Does your child have difficulty with word problems?
- Is your child dependent on a calculator?

Without strong fundamentals in math, students will struggle to achieve their goals in other subject areas. As a student, the fundamentals of upper level math are essential for college preparation, including SAT/ACT preparation and general course requirements. Help your child see the importance of mathematics in their daily lives.

Having a solid math foundation is critical to academic success, and summer is a great time to take action and improve your child's skills. If you feel your child would benefit from academic activities or a more prescribed summer tutoring approach, research the different programs out there and get them the help they need. Summer is the perfect time to build your child's confidence and set a basis for positive results for the coming school year.

*If you have any further questions or would like to know where to start, please contact
 KnowledgePoints Learning Centers (your Partner in Education) 678-240-0936.*

Would you like to get involved with the school activities for your child at Mabry Middle School for the 2006-2007 school year? There are many opportunities to be a part of the activities. The Mabry PTSA is currently seeking committee chairpersons for the 2006-2007 school year. The various committees at Mabry are:

Academic Achievement: Hosts reception for Honor Roll students at the end of each semester and distributes certificates and bumper stickers. Works with administrators to facilitate functions of Jr. National Honor Society.

Book Fair: Chairperson(s) organize two book fairs, one in the Fall and one in the Spring, by working with the Media Center specialist and Scholastic representative.

Box Tops/Cartridges: Collects Box Tops for Education labels and used printer cartridges which are turned in for recycling.

Community Outreach: Organizes charity drives at their discretion throughout the school year.

Copy Volunteers: Schedules volunteers to make copies for school staff.

Cultural Arts: Organizes International Night event and other cultural events as needed.

Dances/Block Parties: Assists administrators to organize a fall dance by working with volunteers to sell tickets and concessions. Organizes grade level "block parties" once per semester.

Directory: Processes information for new students and organizes directory information for printing.

Family Development/Youth Services: Organizes Red Ribbon Week and various others events throughout the school year to distribute healthy living messages to students and parents.

Grounds (interior): Decorates school entry for holidays and seasonal changes.

Grounds (exterior): Organizes committee to maintain outdoor school grounds.

Hearing and Vision: Assists administrators and school nurse in hearing and vision screenings for students.

Hospitality: Chairperson(s) hosts events throughout the school year such as back-to-school teacher luncheon, teacher appreciation week, and other events as deemed necessary.

Legislative: Monitors potential legislation on county and state level and keeps the local PTSA informed.

Marquee: Works with administrators to keep school marquee posted with current information.

Media Center: Schedules volunteers for shifts in the media center and helps to train volunteers.

Newsletter: Formats and prints information submitted by PTSA members and school staff to produce newsletter approximately two times per grading period.

Office Volunteers: Schedules volunteers for shifts at the front office volunteer desk.

Reflections: Distributes information regarding Reflections themes and entry dates and submits qualified entries to county representatives.

School Store Supplies: Orders supplies for stock of school store.

School Store Volunteers: Schedules volunteers for shifts at school store.

Sports-a-Rama: Organizes two events yearly at the Sports-a-Rama facility.

Sunshine: Sends acknowledgements to school personnel for occasions such as weddings, births, illness, etc.

Webmaster: Assists school personnel to maintain website and PTSA blog.

8th Grade Activities: Organizes and oversees committees to plan 8th Grade Dance at end of school year.

8th Grade BBQ: Organizes a year end BBQ for 8th grade students.

7th Grade Activities: Assists 8th Grade Activities chairperson by providing food service for the 8th Grade Dance.

*Mabry Middle School Calendar**

MAY	1	6:30 pm	Rising 6 th Grade Parent Night
	1-5		Teacher Appreciation Week
	2	7:00 pm	7 th and 8 th Grade Band Concert
	4	7:00 pm	Spring Orchestra Concert
			PTSA General Meeting, Introduction of Officers
	8	9:30 am	PTSA Executive and Committee Board Year End Brunch
	8-12		Book Fair
	9	7:00 pm	6 th Grade Band Concert
	11	7:00 pm	Choral Dept. "Broadway Review"
	15		Mabry Volunteer Appreciation Brunch
	17		7 th Grade Field Day
	18	7:00 pm	Choral Dept. Musical Production
	18		6 th Grade Field Day
	19		8 th Grade Field Day and BBQ
	19		Deadline for end-of-year <u>Charging Times</u>
	25	6:30 pm	8 th Grade Dance
	26		LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
JUNE	1		Report cards and <u>Charging Times</u> mailed home

* Updated 4/19/06. These dates are subject to change. Refer to www.mabryonline.org for the most current calendar dates and revisions.

Mabry Dress Code 2005 – 2006

Unacceptable attire:

- Sheer or see-through garments
- Clothing or ornamentation displaying or advertising substances illegal for minors
- Clothing or ornamentation displaying suggestive phrases, designs, markings or profanities
- Mini-skirts or short-shorts
- Midriff shirts or any blouses or tops that expose the stomach or waistline
- Any clothing that exposes cleavage
- Halter tops or spaghetti-strap tops
- Loose-fitting pants or shorts that ride low showing underwear
- Chains. They may not be worn as ornamentation or used to secure wallets, etc. Studded bracelets are not to be worn in school or on school grounds. Jewelry that is distracting, unsafe, or symbolic of inappropriate behavior.
- Caps and hats. They are not to be worn during the school day unless there is a special activity during which they are deemed appropriate by the administration. This applies to both boys and girls.
- Flip flops are not to be worn. Shoes must be worn at all times. We encourage closed toe and heeled shoes.
- While we will allow sleeveless tops for girls only, the sleeve must cover the entire shoulder and not be loose so as to be revealing.

Mabry PTSA Officers 2005 – 2006

Co-Presidents

Becky Johnson 770-565-9256
Kelly Dunlap 678-560-2605

Vice President of Membership

Chrissy Miletto 770-649-0460

Vice President of Volunteers

Diana Young 770-518-8501

Secretary

Kay Watkins 770-516-0298

Treasurer

Wendy Sullivan 770-321-5375

Parliamentarian

Belinda Heitmeyer 770-973-1382

The final Charging Times for 2005-2006 will be mailed with report cards on June 1st.

The deadline for this newsletter is Friday, May 19th. Newsletter Request Forms are available in the Mabry front office. Articles may also be submitted directly to sspallen@aol.com. Thank you!