



**January**

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# Charging Times

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



**2006**

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## **A Message from our PTSA Co-Presidents**

Happy New Year! We are off and running at Mabry in 2006 but would like to begin the year by giving thanks to so many volunteers that participated in 2005. We had a few events pop up on the calendar such as the Intel School of Distinction Award dinner and the Principal's Brunch that left us with some last minute scrambling. We are so grateful to those volunteers that came forward and said "what can I do to help?"

A new event introduced by administration at Mabry this year has been the Block Parties. Block Parties are being held at the end of each nine week grading period as a free time for kids to dance, have a snack and socialize. The PTSA, through our chairman Joann Maloney, has assisted the school with this function by providing concessions. We hope that your children are enjoying this opportunity to relax with their friends!

Please mark your calendar for up-coming events such as Sports-a-Rama Night on January 20<sup>th</sup>, the next Block Party on March 17<sup>th</sup>, the Spring Book Fair and the Talent Show. You can always stay up to date by checking the calendar at [mabryonline.org](http://mabryonline.org).

Believe it or not, we have already elected a Nominating Committee to submit names for the 2006-2007 PTSA Executive Board. If you or someone you know would like to be nominated for an executive officer position for the next school year, please contact one of us. Being a PTSA officer can be hard work but the rewards are tremendous!

As most of you know, one of our Mabry families lost their home in a fire in December. Words cannot even begin to express our thanks to our Mabry Middle School families, Garrison Mill families and community for the unbelievable out pouring of generosity during our gift card drive. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful and supportive community. Together with Garrison Mill Elementary, we were able to present the family with an extraordinary box full of gift cards. Thank you so much for all of your support.

We hope that each of you had a wonderful holiday and enjoyed your break from school. We'll soon be counting down the days to summer!

Becky Johnson and Kelly Dunlap  
PTSA Co-Presidents

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## **Community Outreach Assists the Foster Care Support Foundation**

Thanks, once again, to your tremendous compassion and generosity, the Foster Care Support Foundation drive sponsored by the Mabry PTSA Community Outreach committee was a great success. The Foster Care Support Foundation is a non-profit, all volunteer organization that gives free clothes, toys, and infant-care equipment to some of Georgia's almost 15,000 foster children. The FCSF had specifically requested certain items based on their most immediate needs, and our Mabry students, parents and teachers responded enthusiastically by donating approximately 75 pairs of pajamas/lounging pants, 70 new pairs of socks, underwear and boxers, 25 toys, 20 baby items, and much more.

What an awesome community in which we live! Thank you all so much for your continued kindness toward those in need, and may that kindness be returned to you ten-fold in the New Year!!

*Teresa Shank, Community Outreach Chair*

## From the Desk of Dr. Tyson January 9, 2006

### MabryOnline Goes Interactive!

This is huge news! I'm tremendously excited! Today we are launching a whole new educational dimension in this revolution that is pervasive computing and pervasive connectivity. Our original goal was to have these projects go online during the Fall of 2006. We are 8 months ahead of schedule!

### Announcing ... Mabry's Global Learning Collaborative

The ultimate (long-range) goal of Mabry's Global Learning Collaborative is to provide our students with national and international collaborations that will facilitate broader awareness and understanding, the opportunity for world-wide student publication and peer-review, and meaningful opportunities for deeper, rigorous, meaningful and relevant academic learning experiences. The realization of this goal will require a significant amount of time and effort from our students and staff, but we believe it to be a noteworthy goal that will help our school attain our world-class ambitions and more deeply realize our mission to maximize student achievement in a culture of caring.

The projects presented in the Global Learning Collaborative may take several forms including: the publication of exemplary student work, the presentation of student research in on-going projects sponsored by Mabry teachers, a single project collaboration with a defined focus between a Mabry teacher's class and another teacher's class elsewhere in the world, student review of an author's work and the author's response to that review, virtual classroom courses, differentiated academic experiences for ambitious learners, and student collaborations with specialists in a field of study.

(Copied from Mabryonline.org)

For additional, detailed information about this exciting development at Mabry Middle School, be sure to visit Mabryonline.org to read Dr. Tyson's complete announcement and click on all of the related links for the project. Examples of the links are shown below:

The image displays six promotional banners for various projects under the Mabry's Global Learning Collaborative. Each banner includes a title, a brief description, and a call to action.

- Mabry's Global Learning Collaborative:** Harnessing the power of international student collaboration & world-wide peer review to facilitate global understanding & international academic competition. Maximizing student achievement today; Making the world a better place tomorrow. [Learn more »](#)
- The Shift Key:** Student-written fiction published for your enjoyment and peer review. [Read & review our written work »](#)
- Jekyll Island:** 2006. [Learn more »](#)
- Antarctica Collaborative:** McMurdo Station. [Learn more »](#)
- Environment:** A detailed, ongoing study of the flora, fauna, environmental and socio-logical issues in Sweat Mountain Park. [Read & review our scientific data »](#)
- Media Center:** We are publishing our own textbooks and digital media objects. You too are invited to contribute! [Learn more »](#)

**This is BIG news for everyone at Mabry Middle School !!! Check it out!**

## Red Ribbon Week Was a Great Success!

A big thank you to all the parents who helped prepare for Red Ribbon Week and made the week so fun! Over 50 Mabry parents participated in Red Ribbon Week, either by coming to the school and acting as spotters, or by doing “behind the scene” preparation for the week. Thank you to the faculty who were so patient with all the parents feeding the students sugar! Speaking of sugar, much of the candy was donated by Debbie Armstrong, who is the Assistant Manager of the Kroger at Hwy 92 and Mabry Road. We are grateful to Debbie Armstrong for her continued interest in supporting our school.

Mabry students, faculty, and staff were given “Band Together Against Drugs” wristbands at the start of the week and were asked to wear them all week. I saw the wristbands at school and in other places around town. I’m glad to say the bands were a hit rather than a nuisance to the kids.

Parents were on hand here and there throughout the week to spot students wearing the wristbands, or participating in “theme days”. We had two simple theme days: wear red day and wear a sports jersey or hat day. By Friday afternoon, we had given out hundreds of pieces of candy, as that many students participated in the events of the week! Also, I am pleased to say that many students signed our “Band Against Drugs” pledge wall.

The point of Red Ribbon Week was to raise awareness about drug and alcohol abuse, and open dialogue about the issues. I think we succeeded in showing our kids that, as parents, we are a visible presence in their lives, and that we very much care about the choices they are making now, and will make in the future.

Again, thank you to our wonderful Mabry students, faculty, staff, and parents!

*Sarah DeFilippo*

Family Development and Youth Services Chair

### **Boxtops for Education Contest !!!**

**February 6 - 17**

The winning homeroom will get a  
donut/juice party!

Collection boxes will be located in  
each homeroom.

## Mabry Clinic Update

In order to prepare for the upcoming cold and flu season, I wanted to summarize important facts about health care services in the school:

1. The clinic does not supply over the counter medication for headaches, sore throats, cramps, nasal congestion, coughs etc. Middle school students may carry the following medications: ibuprofen (i.e.: Advil, Motrin), acetaminophen (Tylenol), Midol, aspirin, antacids, cough drops and throat lozenges. A completed “Over the Counter Medication Permission Form” must be completed and kept on file in the clinic. The student will be given a copy of the form and the medication must be kept in the original container.
2. All prescription medication, cough and cold medication (except lozenges), antihistamines, and over-the-counter medication not listed above (i.e.: Aleve) shall be kept in the clinic. An “Authorization to Administer” medication form must be completed.
3. If you would rather I monitor your child’s use of over-the-counter medication, I can keep it in the clinic. An “Authorization to Administer” medication form must be completed. A doctor’s note is required for over-the-counter medication that is given for more than 10 consecutive school days.
4. Please keep student home if your child has a fever, vomiting, two episodes of diarrhea, or a rash that may be contagious.

### Simple Preventative Measures:

- Wash hands frequently. Wash hands before eating, after blowing nose, coughing, and sneezing. (Alcohol hand gels may be used in the classroom to minimize disruptions).
- Cover mouth and nose. Tell your children to keep hands away from eyes, nose and mouth. Use a tissue when sneezing and blowing their noses.

**I always welcome donations of tissues, Lysol wipes, hand sanitizer and 8 oz cups.** I encourage nose blowing, hand washing and drinking plenty of fluids. Everyday I wipe down my office with the Lysol wipes to keep the germs down.

Thank you for all your support. Have a healthy year.

*Caroline Waters, RN*  
Mabry Middle School Clinic  
Hours: 9 – 4  
Phone: 770 928-5546



## Key Points from Mabry's October 25<sup>th</sup> Lunch N' Learn Presentation Today's Youth Drinking Culture

Cathy Finck, Sgt. Becky Westenberger, and Deputy Gavin Beasley representing the Cobb Underage Drinking Task Force, showed a brief film titled *This Place*. The film depicted a compelling look at three critical areas that adults and youth need to clearly understand in order for comprehensive changes in today's youth drinking culture to take place.

1. Drinking among youth today is dramatically different than it was 20 years ago.
2. Over the past several decades, environments in the Cobb community have shifted dramatically (as they have in most communities). These environmental conditions create contributing factors that fuel alcohol-related problems among youth. Here's what has changed...
  - Potency and variety of alcohol products
  - How much kids drink (volume/binge drinking)
  - Frequency of their drinking
  - Age they begin drinking
  - Overall availability of alcohol to youth
  - Definition of a "drink"
  - Parent/adult supervision of teens/pre-teens
3. There are grassroots efforts, like the Cobb Underage Drinking Task Force, going on all across the country that are making changes in the conditions, policies, and practices that contribute to youth access to alcohol and underage drinking. There are proven strategies being implemented in Cobb County that can/will create change in our community.

To find out more information visit the taskforce's website at [www.CUDTF.org](http://www.CUDTF.org). Get involved in becoming part of the solution.

***It's up to adults to stop underage drinking!***

Additional factoids...

- In the U.S. alone, alcohol kills more kids than all illegal drugs combined.
- More kids drink alcohol than smoke tobacco or use marijuana.
- One in five eighth-graders is a current drinker.
- Each day, three teens in the U.S. die from underage drinking and driving, and at least six more die from other alcohol-related causes.

*Sarah DeFilippo*, Family Development and Youth Services Chair



### MABRY MEDIA CENTER BOOK DRIVE



### Summer Reading Lists and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Dream Series Books

Have you cleaned out your child's book shelves lately? Do you have books from the Summer Reading Lists over the years? Do you have a 7<sup>th</sup> grader that has a book from the Dream Series required reading this year?

If so, the Mabry Media Center would love to accept your donation of gently used books from previous Summer Reading Lists and the Dream Series. These books will be used to create class sets for assigned reading and to allow students to "check out" the books instead of purchasing them, if possible.

There will be a collection bin in the Media Center through February 15<sup>th</sup>. Please feel free to drop off the books at your convenience or send them in with your student.

**Thank you for your generosity in supporting the Mabry Media Center!**

## Consequences of Crime Field Trip

Twenty Mabry students from 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade were taken on a field trip to the Cobb County Prison on November 20<sup>th</sup>. The program, entitled "Consequences of Crime", was hosted by the Eastern Cobb County Council PTA through a continuing partnership with the Cobb County Sheriff's Office; the Superior, State and Magistrate Courts, and the Cobb County School District.

The purpose of the program is an educational activity that directly helps students understand the consequences involved with making wrong choices. We arrived at the County Services Parkway Adult Detention Center and were welcomed by Sergeant Westenberger, the Sheriff's Office Representative. Sergeant Westenberger led a lively discussion of the various ways juveniles can find themselves facing criminal charges. She focused on drinking and driving, being in possession of drugs and alcohol, and new laws concerning teenage drivers. Our students jumped into the dialogue with excellent questions and observations.

Judge Elsey took time out of her day to speak to the students about what it is like to face her in court. She explained the process of arrest, booking, and eventual appearance in court. One of the inmates spoke to the students for a long time about his experiences, the mistakes he made when he was young, and offered a very personal account of what it's like to be in jail. Again, students were respectful and asked excellent questions.

The final part of our trip was a tour of the prison unit. This was difficult for some of the students, as we were face to face with inmates behind bars. We were shown their personal quarters, where students could see how little space inmates have, and the complete lack of privacy.

While parts of the program certainly were not comfortable, the program met its goal in educating about the consequences of making wrong choices.

We are indebted to the Cobb County Sheriff's Office, Sergeant Westenberger, Judge Elsey, and the inmate who spoke so frankly with us. Also, a special thanks to the students who went on this field trip – I know it wasn't easy.

*Sarah DeFilippo*, Family Development and Youth Services Chair

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## Kudos

### **Congratulations to the following Mabry students for making the 2005 University of Georgia Honor Bands!**

Cassandra	Mary
Courtney	Peter
Chelsea	Gabrielle
Stephanie	Logan
Hannah	Callie
Austin	Andrew



A round of applause for 7<sup>th</sup> grader, Erin and 6<sup>th</sup> grader, Myya, who performed in the play, Seussical The Musical. The production premiered in November, 2005.

Congratulations to Brendan, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader in Mrs. Cushman's homeroom, who was selected to be part of the West All-Star Football Team. Brendan plays right guard for the team.

Leading The Way! As part of his leadership training, James, a den chief, was the Head Chef for the weekend for more than 50 young, hungry boy scouts and their leaders. James is a proud member of troop #714 and a 6<sup>th</sup> grader in Mrs. Burke's homeroom.



Parents / Teachers: If you would like to recognize someone in the Charging Times, please submit a hand-written and signed request to the PTSA using a Newsletter Request Form (available in the Mabry front office). Thank you!

## *Mabry Middle School Calendar*

**Highlighted entries are calendar changes and additions since the last newsletter. \***

JANUARY	9		NO SCHOOL – Teacher Work Day
	10		Back to School
	10	8:30 am	PTSA Executive Board Meeting (Media Center)
	10	9:30 am	PTSA Committee Board Meeting (Media Center)
	13		Distribution of Report Cards
	16		NO SCHOOL – MLK HOLIDAY
	20	8:00 pm	Sports-A-Rama Night
	25		Early release
	31		Academic reception for 2 <sup>nd</sup> nine weeks honor roll
	FEBRUARY	<b>6-17</b>	
10			End of 4.5 week period
13		8:30 am	PTSA Executive Board Meeting (Media Center)
13		9:30 am	PTSA Committee Board Meeting (Media Center)
15			Distribution of Progress Reports, Charging Times
17			NO SCHOOL - Teacher Work Day
20			NO SCHOOL – Presidents’ Day
20-22			7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Jekyll Island Trip
22-24			7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Jekyll Island Trip
MARCH	1		Early Release
	2-4		All State Chorus – Savannah
	13	8:30 am	PTSA Executive Board Meeting (Media Center)
	13	9:30 am	PTSA Committee Board Meeting (Media Center)
	17		Block Parties
	<b>20–24</b>		<b>Book Fair</b>
	22		Talent Show Tryouts
	27		Distribution of report cards, Charging Times
28-30		District 12 GMEA Choral Festival	
APRIL	<b>3-7</b>		<b>NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK</b>
	10	8:30 am	<b>PTSA Executive Board Meeting (Media Center)</b>
	10	9:30 am	<b>PTSA Committee Board Meeting (Media Center)</b>
	11		<b>Academic reception for 3rd nine weeks honor roll</b>
	13	7:00 pm	<b>Talent Show – PTSA General Meeting – election of officers</b>
	17-21		<b>CRCT Testing</b>
	22-23		<b>District Honor Band Performance</b>
	28		<b>Distribution of progress reports, Charging Times</b>

### **sports-A-Rama Night**

Mark your calendars!

**Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup> 8 - 10 p.m.**

**\$10 Admission**

**Music, Games, Food, Fun!**

The next Charging Times Newsletter will be sent home with students’ progress reports on **Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**.

The deadline for submitting articles for this newsletter is Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. Newsletter Request Forms are available in the Mabry Middle School front office.

\* Updated 1/10/06. These dates are subject to change.

Refer to [www.mabryonline.org](http://www.mabryonline.org) for the most current calendar dates and revisions.