



April

Charging Times

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



2007

A Message from our PTSA Co-Presidents

It is so hard to believe we are on the final countdown to the end of school. Only 20 more days. April has held many events and May will be just as busy.

On April 10, our Academic Reception Committee held the 3rd academic reception for honor roll students. That evening PTSA held its general meeting and officer elections. We are pleased to announce the Executive Board for the 2007-08 school year: Co-Presidents are Teresa Haverly and Sandi Malloy, VP of Membership is Sharon Stenczel, VP of Volunteers is Chrissy Miletto, Secretary is Kitty Fortanbary and Treasurer is Dee Shipp. We would like to welcome these wonderful ladies to the Executive Board. Also that evening, the PTSA had a fantastic guest speaker, Mr. Jeff Dess from the Prevention Intervention Center. Parents were encouraged to take part in a very interactive discussion on various topics our teens are facing today. Mr. Dess covered topics such as bullying, cyber-bullying, MySpace, Facebook, and other topics brought up by parents. The event was very informative and well received by all the parents. Thank you to Mr. Dess for an enlightening evening.

The month of May has a very full agenda! Please mark these dates on your calendar:

May	3	6th Grade Band Concert
May	7	Volunteer Appreciation
May	7-11	Spring Book Fair
May	7-11	Teacher Appreciation Week
May	11	Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
May	8	PTSA General Meeting
May	8	7/8th Grade Band Concert
May	10	Choral Concert
May	14	Rising 6 th Grade Parent Meeting
May	15	Orchestra Concert
May	16	7 th Grade Field Day
May	17	6 th Grade Field Day
May	17	Musical Production
May	18	8 th Grade Field Day and BBQ
May	24	8 th Grade Dance
May	25	Last Day of School
June	4	Report Cards Mailed



We are still looking for several committee chairs for the 2007-08 school year. If you would like to be more involved please feel free to contact any of the board members.

We have been truly blessed with wonderful committee chairs this year. With all of their dedication we have had another successful school year.

Becky Johnson and Belinda Heitmeyer, Mabry PTSA Co-Presidents



Mabry Media Center News...

Thanks to the many of you who volunteered in the Media Center this year. Gail and Mary Julia appreciated every minute you spent helping them. We will be taking inventory during the last weeks of school and need volunteers to assist.

Keep in mind that during the first month of school next year we will be collecting those summer reading books you no longer need. Please consider donating all your summer required reading material to the Media Center. We use these books to create sets for the classrooms.

If you are not currently a volunteer and would like to get on the schedule for next year or need more information about volunteering or inventory, please let me know. You may contact me at lyngarr@aol.com. Thanks!

Lynn Garris, Media Center Chair

Spring Book Fair

Summer is just around the corner, and you know what that means....Summer Reading!!

We will be offering this summer's required reading titles for each grade at the Spring Book Fair. Come in and pick up your required summer reading books, as well as the many other popular books Scholastic has to offer!

The Book Fair will be held May 7th - 11th in the Media Center. The hours are as follows:

Mon thru Thur	8:15 - 4:30
Friday	8:15 - 1:00

Students: Be on the lookout for **Mabry Book Bucks** during the week of the Book Fair! They will be hidden throughout the school, and can be redeemed for \$5 worth of Book Fair merchandise! One Book Buck per student please.

Thanks for supporting Mabry, and we will see you at the Fair!

Consequences of Crime

Every year Eastern Cobb County Council PTSA hosts a program entitled "**Consequences of Crime.**" This year twenty students from 7th and 8th grade were given an opportunity to attend this field trip.

Consequences of Crime is an educational program that helps students understand the consequences involved when a wrong choice is made. The students were taken to the Cobb County Adult Detention Center on County Services Parkway. They were greeted by the Cobb County Sheriffs department. After passing through security, the students were taken to the dining hall and informed of the various ways teens can end up in trouble with the law. The students were then given the opportunity to speak with one of the inmates housed at the Detention Center. He spoke about the crime he committed, how he spends his time, his experience in the system and the price it has cost him. The inmate then answered questions proposed to him from various students and adults. The students asked excellent questions and were very respectful. Finally, the students were taken on a tour of the facility and saw what it would be like to be incarcerated.

While the experience was at times uncomfortable, the students felt they had gained a lot of insight to the consequences of making a wrong choice. **A special thank you to the Cobb County Sheriff's Department, parent chaperone, Mr. Joe Heitmeyer, Mrs. Hagg, and the ECCC for making this experience possible.**

Becky Johnson, PTSA Co-President

ATTENDANCE REMINDER

Spring has sprung and so have student tardies. Just a reminder that homeroom starts at 8:45.

Announcements start and attendance is taken at 9:10. If a student arrives at 9:10 or later, they must stop at the 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 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 plan to get your children here by 9:00 to avoid the late sign-in delay.



TO ALL 7th GRADE PARENTS

Each year, Mabry's 7th Grade has traditionally sponsored a **photo reception for parents and students at the 8th Grade Spring Dance**. This photo reception has had special sentimental value for our outgoing upperclassmen, since Mabry has no formal graduation ceremony from middle school.

It is our sincere wish to continue this school tradition with your gracious assistance, and with a **suggested donation of \$5**, these funds will furnish food, drink, and a small memento for our 8th graders. Please remember that next year, our 7th Graders will be the guests of honor at their own Spring Dance Reception to honor the Class of 2008.

A locked box labeled "7th Grade Contributions for Spring Dance" will be available for your donations in the Mabry Main Office. Make checks payable to "Mabry PTSA". Please contact us with any questions or comments.

We also need 7th grade parent volunteers on the night of the dance. No students will be assisting this year, so parent participation is a necessity.

Kitty Fortanbary (678-560-4456) and Kelly Putman (770-993-5214), 7th Grade Co-Chairs

To All of the Mabry Volunteers:

I want to thank you for all of your help this past year. You have made our work easier than it could have been! I have enjoyed being on the board the past two years and will be passing my job onto Chrissy Milletto next year. I'm sure she will do an even better job.

Thanks again,

Diana Young, Vice- President of Volunteers

Thank you !!!

A Note from our Welcome Desk Committee Chair

Over this past school year I have had the pleasure of working with many wonderful ladies who have a wealth of experience and have been very committed to the "Welcome Desk". Some of you have had more than one child come through Mabry and have had a few years experience working for this committee. I implore you to consider serving as chair for this committee. Your knowledge and experience would be a huge benefit to our school!

Ava Simmons, Welcome Desk Committee Chair



Congratulations to the Spanish Club that went to Spain over Spring Break!

We traveled to three cities: Madrid, Córdoba, and Sevilla. The students that went with Señorita Bonita were Eric, Harrison, and Rebecca. These students represented Mabry and the U.S. very well. They were not afraid to use the Spanish that they learned in class to communicate with the Spaniards and the Tour Director of Spain said that they were a very smart and well behaved group of students. Great experience!

Everyone should consider travel or study abroad in the future. We will put together a slide show of our adventures in Spain soon! Look out for it!

Keep on speaking to the world. ¡Sigue hablando con el mundo!

Señorita Bonita

Bridging the Summer Gap: How to Make the Most of Your Summer



“No more pencils. No more books. No more teachers’ dirty looks!” Who doesn’t remember that little tune? School was done and we didn’t need to think about it for another 3 months. However, with everything a student is required to learn, summer is no longer a time for doing everything but academics. **Here are a few simple ideas to help keep your child academically engaged all summer long.**

Keep them reading! Enroll your child in a kids’ book club at the library (even for the child who loves to read). This gives them an opportunity to practice their higher level comprehension, reasoning, predicting, and inferencing skills when talking about the book. This will also help keep a resistant reader on a schedule and accountable.

Calculate math into the equation. As you set time aside for reading, do the same for math. Buy them a workbook and let them work through the previous year’s material. This will also give you an idea of what they have mastered and what they still do not understand. Don’t forget the word problems!

Follow current events. Keep your eye out on local festivals, art shows, and sporting events to attend. Younger children can create their own newspapers and report to you what is happening in their world. Also, take the time to read and discuss what is going on in the news. Children at all levels should learn to assess and critique the world around them and be able to articulate what their thoughts and opinions are on any subject.

Plan a family trip together. Teach your child to read a map and calculate distances, let them research the area and find a variety of activities each member of the family would enjoy. Give them their own “vacation budget” and help them keep track of their own spending.

Enroll your child in a program. If you feel your child would benefit from something more; a personalized study program in either reading, writing, pre-algebra, language arts, or elementary math may be more of what you need. Whether you want to strengthen weak academic areas or prepare them for more advanced work, summer is the best time for your child to catch up or get ahead.

However you choose to spend the summer, make sure you take time to keep your child academically engaged. You will be glad you did!

Would you like to get involved at Mabry Middle School?

There are many opportunities to be a part of the activities here at Mabry. Our PTSA is currently looking for people to chair several committees. Volunteers are also needed throughout the year to help in every area.

The following committee chair positions are now open for the 2007/2008 school year: **Directory, Family and Youth Services, Grounds Interior, Grounds Exterior, Hospitality, Webmaster, 8th grade dance, 8th grade BBQ, 7th Grade Activities.** Please contact Kay Watkins at 770-516-0298 or twkwjw@bellsouth.net if you would like to chair (or co-chair) a committee for next year.

Following is a description of all Mabry PTSA Committees. Please consider now how you can become involved in the fall!

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.
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 2 times per grading period.

Welcome Desk Volunteers	Schedules volunteers for shifts at the welcome 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 PTSA OFFICERS
2006 – 2007**

Co-Presidents:

Belinda Heitmeyer 770-973-1382
bheimeyer@bellsouth.net
Becky Johnson 770-565-9256
rhjanson@bellsouth.net

Vice President of Volunteers:

Diana Young 770-518-8501

Vice President of Membership:

Chrissy Miletto 770- 649-0460

Secretary:

Kay Watkins 770-516-0298

Treasurer:

Renee Plumley 770-645-3797

Parliamentarian:

Kelly Dunlap 678-560-2605

**MABRY PTSA COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN
Spring 2007**

Academic Achievement	Kim Cross	(770) 552-2650
Book Fair	Mary Ciesielski	(770) 977-3165
	Jean Kahn	(770) 509-0307
	Vicki Gunnels	(770) 509-7181
Box Tops/Cartridges	Karen Lind	(770) 594-7369
Community Outreach	Teresa Shank	(770) 672-0363
Copy Volunteers	Jodi Smith	(770) 321-4909
Cultural Arts	Jackie Weyrick	(770) 587-3656
Dances / Block Parties	Joann Maloney	(770) 592-2235
	Frances Weissert	(770) 643-0814
Directory	Patty Allen	(678) 560-5708
Family Development/ Youth Services	Marty Slone	(770) 998-5668
Grounds - Interior	Susan Sargent	(678) 795-9956
Hearing and Vision	Teresa Hauser	(678) 461-5950
Hospitality	Donna Regeski	(678) 851-7170
Legislative	Donnell Willequer	(770) 552-4184
Marquee	Beth Gijlstra	(770) 993-4805
Media Center	Lynn Garris	(770) 971-4377
Newsletter	Patty Allen	(678) 560-5708
Office Volunteers	Ava Simmons	(770) 640-1811
Reflections	Wendy Sullivan	(770) 321-5375
School Store (Supplies)	Debbie Baker	(770) 578-0811
School Store (Volunteers)	Sandi Malloy	(770) 578-6460
Sport-A-Rama	Denise Ankerholz	(770) 321-0530
Sunshine	Ashley Alderman	(770) 641-0357
Webmaster	Chris/ Cindy Hugh Sam	(770) 643-0794
8th Grade activities	Theresa Hauser	(678) 461-5950
	Nadine Johnson	(770) 926-3450
8th Grade BBQ	Nadine Johnson	(770) 926-3450
7th Grade activities	Kitty Fortanbary	(678)560-4456
	Kelly Putman	(770) 993-5214



The next Charging Times newsletter will be mailed with report cards on June 4th. The deadline for this newsletter is May 10th. Please email articles to sspallen@aol.com.



WILL YOUR CHILD TURN **15** THIS SUMMER?

If your child will turn 15 before 8/13, and is 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 your child has a summer birthday, you may get this form the last week of school through 6/1. You will not be able to get this certificate for summer birthdays past 6/1, so please plan ahead.



Defensive Driving Course Offered at Lassiter High School on Saturday, May 12th

The Lassiter PTSA, in collaboration with Smyrna Driving Clinic Inc. & John Thorton Chevrolet, is proud to offer a **Defensive Driving Course on Saturday, May 12th, 9am-3:30pm in the Lassiter Theatre.** This class is geared toward the teen driver, teaching them to make good decisions while driving an automobile. Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death in 15-20 year olds, with young drivers being involved in fatal crashes at more than twice the rate for the rest of the population.

This class will feature a series of guest speakers with first-hand involvement in fatal crashes involving teens. Topics covered will include safe driving strategies, urban driving, expressway driving, teen driving laws, state DUI laws, and defense against aggressive or impaired drivers.

The cost for this classroom-based 6-hour course is \$30, which includes pizza and a soft drink for lunch, provided courtesy of John Thorton Chevrolet.

With MOST insurance companies, this state-approved course qualifies students for an insurance reduction. Check with your insurance provider for confirmation. If you need a COURT-APPOINTED driving class, this class is NOT eligible.

Students must pre-register, and attend the entire 6 hours to receive their insurance reduction certificate. Please make checks out to **John Thorton Chevrolet**, and return to the PTSA mailbox in the front office, along with the registration form attached here. (Any cancellations will be applied to a future class; no refunds.)

Students do NOT need to have a Learner’s Permit or Driver’s License prior to taking this class. This is CLASSROOM BASED only. In fact, it’s been reported that students taking this class score better on their written test required for their Leaner’s Permit!

If you have questions, please contact Renee Plumley, Lassiter PTSA Vice President at reneepalumley@comcast.net.

(Detach and return with check)

Lassiter PTSA Defensive Driving Course Registration

Student: _____ DOB: ____/____/____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Age: _____ Advisement teacher: _____

Parent Signature: _____