

# CHARGING TIMES

## MABRY MIDDLE SCHOOL

January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011

# Parent Engagement

At the State Board of Education Meeting on November 10, the board voted unanimously to adopt a *Parent Engagement Resolution*, which incorporates the PTA National Standards for Family School Partnerships. **Donna Kosicki**, Georgia PTA President Elect and a member of the Superintendents Parent Advisory Council spoke on the significance of the resolution and the importance of the PTA National Standards. The Six National Standards are:

*Standard 1:* Welcoming all families into the school community—Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.

*Standard 2:* Communicating effectively—Families and school staff engage in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about student learning.

*Standard 3:* Supporting student success—Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

*Standard 4:* Speaking up for every child—Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

*Standard 5:* Sharing power—Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

*Standard 6:* Collaborating with community—Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, and community service.

### AROUND THE WORLD AT MABRY

February 1

Be sure to check out the flyer that was sent home with report cards for more information on this fun and exciting event at Mabry!

## All American Dancer

Congratulations to **Maddie Naugher**. Maddie was selected from hundreds of students as a Universal Dance Association "All American Dancer." She performed in the Thanksgiving Tour at Walt Disney World and in the New Year's Day Parade in Rome, Italy. We are proud of you, Maddie!



## Lassiter Junior Trojan's Rock

### Seventh Grade Junior Trojan Football

Congratulations to the Seventh Grade Junior Trojan Football team for another great season. The team only had one loss during the regular season and made it to the quarter final game in the GMSAA play-offs. The boys played well and the coaching staff and team moms helped to make it a great season for everyone. Our cheerleaders worked hard all season and played a tough Powder Puff game against the Pope cheerleaders which ended in a tie score. Congratulations, Matt Merriman, for being selected to the GMSAA All-Star Team.

### Lassiter Junior Trojan Dance Team Wins First Place at Grayson High School Dance Team Invitational

Congratulations to the Lassiter Junior Trojan Dance Team. On Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> the girls attended the Grayson Invitational and competed against other middle school dance teams. Our girls won first place in both the Jazz and Hip Hop division. The girls will also compete at Kennesaw State University on Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup> - **Go Trojans!**



# HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Diversity Committee highlighted these three holidays in December



*Kwanzaa*

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Kwanzaa is an African-American cultural holiday celebrating the rich heritage of People of African Ancestry. Kwanzaa is observed over a seven-day period from December 26 through January 1. The word Kwanzaa is an East African Swahili word meaning "First Fruits". It is based on an African traditional celebration of harvest, where an entire village celebrates and shares the rewards of the land. Kwanzaa was founded in 1966 by **Dr. Maulana Karenga**, a cultural activist, whose goal was to unite the African- American community, strengthen its family structure and improve its self-image by linking the community with strong African role models.



*Las Navidades*

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A Spanish Christmas follows many of the traditions that the rest of the world engages in at Christmas. In Spanish-speaking countries Christmas Eve, or la Nochebuena, is celebrated on December 24. Typically, families get together to enjoy each others company and indulge in special meals, food and drinks. Traditional dishes are served however these traditional foods can vary depending on which country you are in. For instance, in some countries the traditional dish may be tamales and empanadas. In Spain the main dish is turkey while in some South American Spanish-speaking countries cold dishes are served as Christmas occurs during their summer time. Of course Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without the exchanging of gifts and this is no different in Spanish-speaking countries during Las Navidades.



*Hanukkah*

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The Jewish holiday Hanukkah celebrates the re-dedication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem in the 2nd century B.C. Hanukkah, which means "dedication" in Hebrew, usually falls in November or December. The celebration lasts for eight nights to commemorate a miracle that occurred in the temple: When the Jewish people first returned to the Holy Temple after defeating Hellenist Syrians, who had made it illegal for Jews to worship, they found only enough oil to light the temple's menorah for one day. Miraculously, the flame remained lit for eight days and nights, giving them enough time to find more oil to sustain the fire. Often called the "Festival of Lights," Hanukkah festivities include games, gifts, eating traditional foods and lighting a new candle on the menorah each night.



## Mabry Around the World

Come to Mabry's 1st annual "Around the World at Mabry" to celebrate diversity **Tuesday, February 1, 2011!** We need students or parents to help us represent cultures from around the world. We will show the cultures with photographs, artifacts, games, music, posters, technology, fun facts, etc. Help us educate and have fun learning about other cultures and countries. Also we will raise money to help the less fortunate in Haiti and Pakistan. Contact **Cassandra Pennisi** [cassandra.pennisi@cobbk12.org](mailto:cassandra.pennisi@cobbk12.org) or **Eve Israel** [eve.israel@cobbk12.org](mailto:eve.israel@cobbk12.org) to help.



the difference  
I can make.

### Box Tops Anyone?

Start saving your Box Tops!! Please be on the lookout for Box Tops on all the products you buy every week. Go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) for a complete list of participating products. Your dinner and snacks could help support your school!

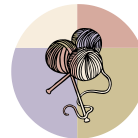
Over 100 popular retailers give eBoxTops to your school when you start your online shopping trip at [btfe.com/marketplace](http://btfe.com/marketplace). Just click on your favorite retailer and eBoxTops will be donated directly to your school with your qualifying purchase. You can earn up to 15 eBoxTops per \$10 you spend. Don't miss out on this easy way to earn even more for your school! Go to [btfe.com/marketplace](http://btfe.com/marketplace) to view a list of the participating stores.

Look for collection boxes at the school and start earning cash for Mabry PTSA.

### 2010-11 Student Forum Officers



**TJ Gray** – President; **Kimmi Morakis** – VP; **Sam Keller** – Secretary; **Kaitlyn Schaefer** - Treasurer



### Stitchery for Students

Mabry students are giving back to the community by crafting items to give to teens undergoing chemotherapy. Materials for knitting and crocheting are needed to create blankets and hats. We need your donations of yarn and needles to make this happen and for making this dream come true for teens in our area.

If you are interested in making any of these items

to donate to cancer patients, please send them to me at school. Feel free to contact **Ilene Abrams** at [ilene.abrams@cobbk12.org](mailto:ilene.abrams@cobbk12.org).

### Children's Safety Corner

Please remember you need to present your ID to check out your child.

If your child is absent, please send a note which includes your child's name, date of the absence, and the reason.

# Around Mabry Hallways

## \$10,000 in Grants to Teachers

The PTSA is pleased to announce that we were able to award over \$10,000 in mini-grants to our

teachers. With your generous donations, we were able to purchase fetal pigs for our seventh grade science classes, a new metronome for our band program, CRCT Materials, math and foreign language software, art supplies, classroom magazine subscriptions, e-Pads, scanners, curriculum resources for teachers, and inflatable solar systems for our sixth grade science classes.

## 2010 Refection Literary Contest Winners

Mabry Middle School 2010 Reflections Report: Together We Can

### *Literature*

1<sup>st</sup> **Matthew Slone**; 2<sup>nd</sup> **Olivia Marena**; 3<sup>rd</sup> **Hannah Williams** and **Jonathan Steltzer**; Honorable Mention: **Nicole Belongia**

### *Visual Arts*

1<sup>st</sup> **Lily Jorgensen**; 2<sup>nd</sup> **Arianna Pacifico**; 3<sup>rd</sup> **Cassie Saxton**; Honorable Mention **Emily Thomann**

### *Photography*

1<sup>st</sup> **Ben Perry**; 2<sup>nd</sup> **Emma Wisdom**; 3<sup>rd</sup> **Kelsey Archer** and **Sammi Schaffer**; Honorable Mentions are **Cathrine Graska** and **Spencer Vogel**

### *Film*

1<sup>st</sup> **Gabe Gonzalez**

## Mabry Volunteers

Your Mabry PTSA would again like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers for the time they give to help make our school the best.

## School Store

A few directories are still available in the School Store for \$5.

Lost your agenda? You can find another one in the School Store for \$5.

## Parent Conferences

Thank you, parents for attending your conferences in October. Parents and teachers working together make a difference in student success! Be a part of Mabry. Not sure how to get involved? Complete a Volunteer Form at the Welcome Desk, check out the volunteer activities on the PTSA blog, or contact our Volunteer Chair—**Lisa Mercurio** at [ljmercurio@hotmail.com](mailto:ljmercurio@hotmail.com)

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## Nutrition is everything!

Each month, Cobb County Food and Nutrition Services has a nutrition-themed art contest to increase awareness of nutrition and wellness. Any student of any age can enter the contest and a grand prize will be awarded.

October's Winner of the **Peanut Butter Lover's Contest** was Simpson Middle School. Don't let Mabry Middle School fall behind on nutrition. You can view the schools winning artwork on the Cobb County website under Food and Nutrition Services and enter the next contest for January. Great prizes, such as iPods are being handed out, so turn in your artwork today!



## Yearbook Sales Reminder

Don't forget to order a yearbook for \$30.00 dollars. The price will increase one more time, to \$35.00, beginning May 1, 2011 until all yearbooks are sold out. Check your financial statement put in your conference folder to see if you have ordered a yearbook yet. Don't miss out!!

## Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee was selected at our general meeting in December. If you are interested in serving on the Executive Committee next year, please contact us at [mabryptsa@live.com](mailto:mabryptsa@live.com). Elections will be held in March.

## Hello Hospitality!

This time of year can be quite hectic, so Mabry thanks all who contributed to the Holiday Dessert Buffet on **Friday December 10<sup>th</sup>** to provide our faculty and staff with a little holiday cheer. Thank you to Amy Ernest, Hania Whitfield and Julie Johnston for helping to coordinate this.

## Newcomers Breakfast

New to Mabry? Attend our Newcomers Breakfast on Tuesday, January 25 at 9:30 to meet our administration, counselors, and PTSA officers.