



Dogwood Dolphin Echo

DECEMBER 2011

**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:**

Counselor's Corner	2
Yearbook	3
Special Thanks	3
Legislative	4
Upcoming Events	5
PTA Board Roster	5

From the President . . .

It is hard to believe that it is December already and we are almost halfway through the school year! I would like to thank everyone who supported the Dogwood Book Fair at Barnes & Noble last month. We raised almost \$3,800 to benefit our school library! A big thanks to Beth Jeselson and her Book Fair Committee, who all worked tirelessly to pull it off!

The PTA Hospitality Committee hosted its first Family Breakfast on December 1st and 2nd and it was a big success. Thanks to Tara Teutsch, Malissa Henegar, and their Hospitality Committee for a planning this great event!

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable Winter Break!

*Laura Clausen
Dogwood PTA President*



Teacher Feature . . . ALLISON BETTS

Allison Betts, a product of Shelby County Schools, always knew she wanted to be a teacher. She attended Riverdale, and then went to Germantown High School. Allison graduated magna cum laude from the University of Memphis. She is a loyal Tiger fan and follows the basketball team faithfully. Allison has a dog named Dillinger that she rescued from the Collierville Animal Shelter.

She comes to Dogwood from Rivercrest Elementary. There she taught 3rd grade for four years. When Rivercrest's staff was told the school was being rezoned, she volunteered to come to Dogwood. After student teaching with Mrs. Harris five years ago, Miss Betts always knew she wanted to make it back to Dogwood.

The faculty, staff, parents, and students have made her feel right at home. Even though she has only been here a short time, she says she truly loves it! "This is a wonderful school, and I can't imagine being anywhere else!"



Don't miss
out on
these great
fundraising
restaurant
nights!

Thursday,
Dec. 8th
Pizza Pro
Night

Thursday,
Jan. 12th
Pizza Pro
Night



COUNSELOR'S CORNER . . .

During the last few weeks of classroom guidance, all students have learned about the importance of having effective listening skills. Various games and active listening activities were played to help demonstrate these skills. Students understand that listening ultimately affects their level of communication, behavior, and grades.



The holidays can be a stressful time for both parents and children. Parents, it is not too early to teach your children effective coping skills. These skills are very important for children not only throughout their growing years, but into adulthood, too.

Here are some tips for help your child cope with stress:

- Model healthy coping skills by demonstrating that some stress is normal and can be handled in a calm and effective manner.
- Help your child recognize signs of stress such as headaches, fatigue, nausea, uneasiness, restlessness, frustration, depression, withdrawal, irritability, aggression, excessive daydreaming, and other general changes in behavior.
- Provide an environment for open communication by being available to listen. Parents ask open-ended questions to obtain more than a yes or no response.
- Have your child learn relaxation techniques by using their imagination to recall or develop positive and relaxing images or other relaxation techniques teaching children to relax various muscle groups.
- Help your child develop good problem solving skills by encouraging them to identify the problem and examine possible solutions.

*Brandi Fitchpatric
School Counselor*

YEARBOOK



As we get closer to the holidays, just a reminder that you have until **January 13, 2012** to pre-purchase a Dogwood Dolphin Tales Yearbook for the 2011-2012 school year. The price is \$45 for this hard cover book with over 125 full color pages. **Books are pre-purchased now and only the number of books ordered are printed and delivered to the students in May.**

The yearbook committee will be glad to print a customized "gift card" for you or your loved ones to present to the student for the holidays or their birthday. Please do not think of the yearbook as an expensive school supply, it is a tangible reminder of the fun your student has had this year at Dogwood. The yearbook committee's mission is to include as many candid photos as possible from each class' Shutterfly website in this year's book so don't miss out.

Yearbooks can be purchased online only at <http://www.yearbookforever.com/> which accepts either Paypal or Visa/Mastercard/Discover Card/American Express.

At this website, you type **Dogwood** and click **Dogwood Elementary** in Germantown, TN and then click on **Buy Yearbook**. This will show you all the choices including name imprinting on the cover and year in review supplements which are all optional.

The final day to place your order for a yearbook for this year **will be January 13, 2012.**

If you have any questions, including did I already purchase my student's yearbook, please email nancy.yenser@comcast.net. I will be glad to look that information up for you.

SPECIAL THANKS . . .



What a great event the Family Breakfast turned out to be! Thank you so much for coming to fellowship with other Dogwood families. A special thank you goes to those who volunteered to help with hospitality: Stephanie Johns, Janean McDowell, Deborah East, Angie Smith, Cindy Barnett, Cindy Sanderson, She'rri McClellan, Ashley Janovich, Lashea Russell, Sharon Mrok & Michelle Johns.



***If you
have any
photos of
your child
or your
child's
class that
you would
like to
share,
please
send them
to
Kathleen
Kizer at
kckizer@
comcast.net***

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE . . .





On November 15, 2011, David Pickler spoke to the Council of Neighborhood Associations in Germantown. In addition to talking about many of Shelby County Schools recent accomplishments, Mr. Pickler addressed concerns that many Germantown residents have regarding school consolidation. Mr. Pickler said that our representatives on the board understand that Germantown residents expect and rely on a stellar public school system. He advised the group that the transitional team has begun having weekly public meetings on Thursday afternoons at 4:30 to decide how to best merge the school districts and determine what the new district may look like. He opined that we may end up with one huge district with several sub districts or a large district with more optional and charter schools. However, he said the team would be looking at many different options in an effort to provide the best schools for everyone. The report with the transition team's recommendations is due in September 2012. It then has to be approved by the new 23 member Shelby County Board of Education and the Tennessee Department of Education.

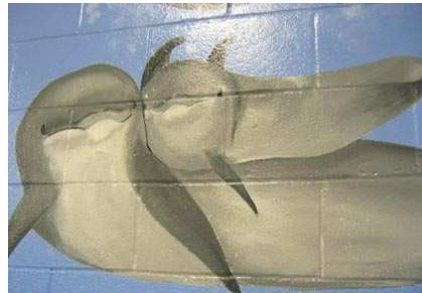
Mr. Pickler also addressed the issue of municipal school districts. He said that he expects legislation to be proposed after the legislature convenes in January that could affect the formation of municipal school districts. Mr. Pickler stated that should municipal school districts be formed, the issue of where the students who reside in Southeast Shelby County and Cordova who attend Germantown schools would have to be addressed. He also speculated that the school buildings in Germantown would be a contentious issue should Germantown attempt to form municipal school districts. He said the buildings could be transferred from Shelby County to the City of Germantown in one of four ways: 1) for no cost; 2) for the unamortized debt on the building (there is no debt on any Germantown Schools except possibly Houston Middle); 3) for fair market value; or 4) for replacement value. Mr. Pickler said that in the past when Shelby County transferred buildings to the City of Memphis that the buildings were transferred to the City of Memphis at no cost. However, he said that Shelby County attorneys had advised the former Shelby County Board that the law dictates that the buildings be transferred for the unamortized debt on the building. Pickler stated that how the buildings are transferred if a municipal district is formed will either be set forth in future legislation or by the 23 member county board. He believes that this issue will ultimately end up in court. Should this issue end up in court, it will be in Judge Mayes Court as he has retained jurisdiction over all issues that relate to the school consolidation until September 2013.

The PTA board is continuing to monitor issues regarding consolidation. There will be reports at upcoming PTA meetings regarding this issue and future Echo articles. We will keep the PTA members abreast of any legislation or court decisions that impact this issue as well as any important decisions made by the new 23 member Shelby County Board of Education.



UPCOMING EVENTS

-  Thursday, Dec. 8 - Pizza Pro fundraising night
-  Tuesday, Dec. 13 - PTA meeting
-  Thursday, Dec. 15 - 1st grade Grinch Day
-  Thursday, Dec. 15 - Holiday Ham fundraising day
-  Friday, Dec. 16 - Winter parties and 1/2 day for students
-  Dec. 19-Jan. 2 - NO SCHOOL Winter Break



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Shelby County Schools offers educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex or disability.

PTA BOARD 2011-2012

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