

# Employer Education Network Newsletter



2nd Quarter 2011, Vol. 1

## Important Dates and Events

### **Knox County Schools Information**

#### **Board of Education Work Session**

June 6, 2011

#### **Board of Education Regular Session**

June 8, 2011

#### **Board of Education Work Session**

July 5, 2011

#### **Board of Education Regular Session**

July 6, 2011

\*There will be no Board mid-month meetings during the summer.

### **Classroom-Community Think Tank**

July 25, 2011

8 am - 1 pm

Vine Middle School  
1807 Martin Luther King, Jr., Ave.  
Continental breakfast & lunch  
provided .

To register for this event:

<http://classroomcommunitythinktank.eventbrite.com/>

### **First Day for Students 2011- 2012**

August 15, 2011

1/2 Day

For more information check  
with your student's school.

## Did you know?

### **Did you know...**

- Most students lose about two months of grade level equivalency in mathematical computation skills over the summer months. Low-income students also lose more than two months in reading achievement, despite the fact that their middle-class peers make slight gains (Cooper, 1996).
- Children lose more than academic knowledge over the summer. Most children—particularly children at high risk of obesity—gain weight more rapidly when they are out of school during summer break (Von Hippel et al, 2007).  
[http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=know\\_the\\_facts](http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=know_the_facts)

## Read With Your Child, the Best 20 Minutes of Your Day!



Tennessee First Lady Crissy Haslam kicked off The Children's Reading Foundation of Knox County "Read with your Child" campaign developed to encourage parents, family members, and other caring adults to invest 20 minutes a day reading to their child. This initiative is designed to improve 3rd grade reading levels. "Across the state only 42% of our third graders are reading at proficient or above. That means 58% are reading below proficient. You learn to read until third grade, then after that you read to learn. We need more of our kids reading at proficient level or above by third grade," said Haslam. Through the campaign, supporters hope to raise that proficiency rate to 90%.

*The Children's Reading Foundation ([www.readingfoundation.org](http://www.readingfoundation.org)) is a national organization made up of a network of community-based Reading Foundations. The Knox County Chapter is one of its newest. This chapter is under the Great Schools Partnership and is funded by a grant from the Elgin Foundation.*

## Avoid Summer Slide

Summer slide or slump is real! The National Summer Learning Association provides information such as the facts listed below under "Did you Know?" To help students avoid summer slide parents are encouraged to assist their children in some forms of academic activities during the summer months. Reading is one of the best ways to avoid or slow the loss of knowledge during this time. The following resources are available to parents and educators to help keep their kids sharp while they're out of school for the summer:

### **Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge -**

[www.scholastic.com/summerreading/index.htm](http://www.scholastic.com/summerreading/index.htm)

This free summer-long literacy program is designed to motivate children to read four or more books. The Summer Challenge site also features resources for educators and parents.

### **Active Bodies Active Minds - [www.mlssoccer.com/mls\\_works](http://www.mlssoccer.com/mls_works)**

This site provides summer reading and fitness challenges designed by Summer Bridge Activities and Major League Soccer to help kids stay sharp and fit over the summer.

### **Reading Is Fundamental - [www.rif.org](http://www.rif.org)**

RIF's Summer Reading Guide has tips, book ideas and a daily calendar of summer reading activities.

### **Read Write Think - [Thinkfinity.org](http://Thinkfinity.org)**

This site has a range of summer activities that promote "Learning Beyond the Classroom" for K-12 children and youth.

### **Freshbrain.org - [www.freshbrain.org](http://www.freshbrain.org)**

Freshbrain.org offers an online summer camp focused on multimedia development and production including application development, graphic design, music mixing and robotics.

### **Exploratorium - [www.exploratorium.edu](http://www.exploratorium.edu)**

Exploratorium is an virtual science center with exhibits, interactive tools and modules, as well as science projects.

### **American Library Association - [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)**

The ALA has tips on making the most of the trip to the library.  
[http://blog.ala.com/breaking/2010/06/keep\\_kids\\_busy\\_to\\_avoid\\_summer.html](http://blog.ala.com/breaking/2010/06/keep_kids_busy_to_avoid_summer.html)

### **Click here for the Knox County Public Library's [Knoxville Summer Reading Program](#)**

Programs for children, teens and adults! Join the fun this summer!

## Important Sources for Information

Here are some resources for information about what is happening in Knox County:

[Knox County Schools Website](#)—Check out district info, individual school sites, and school board meetings.

[Knox County Schools Career & Technical Education \(CTE\) Partnerships](#)— Learn about opportunities to support CTE in Knox County.

[Knox County Council PTA](#)—For information about the Teacher Supply Depot, Clothing Center and other PTA activities.

[Great Schools Partnership](#)—Donate to our schools, explore volunteer opportunities, and find out about events in the area.

[Vols4STEM](#)— For volunteer opportunities and local events for students in science, technology, engineering, and math.

[SCORE](#)— For up-to-date information on school reform efforts in Tennessee.

[TN Dept. of Education School Report Card](#)— Find school performance information for individual schools, districts and the entire state.

[Tennessee State Board of Education](#)—Information on state standards, and Basic Education Program (BEP).

[Tennessee Energy Industry & Construction Consortium \(TEICC\)](#) - Provides information on career planning for students and parents in these fields.

[K-Town Youth Empowerment Network](#)

[Education Consumers Foundation Birdshot chart](#)

### **Join the Education Conversation Online**

Join the discussion online via Facebook or Twitter. Stay informed on the latest happenings going on across the state or receive updates directly to your email or cell phone. Follow [@TNFirsttotheTop](#) on Twitter or find [Tennessee First to the Top](#) on Facebook to stay up to date and share with your friends and followers.

### **For More Information**

Contact Jennifer Evans at [jevans@knoxvillechamber.com](mailto:jevans@knoxvillechamber.com)

Questions, comments or to be removed from our email list please email [aestes@knoxvillechamber.com](mailto:aestes@knoxvillechamber.com) or call 865-246-2658.

## Classroom-Community Think Tank

Seamless Strategies for Reaching and Teaching EVERY Child

Knox County Schools in collaboration with United Way of Greater Knoxville, K-Town Youth Empowerment Network and Project GRAD invite community members to an event focused on helping students learn. Knox County teachers and administrators will engage with community program leaders and parents in a facilitated dialogue on how to maintain learning environments that reach and teach every child—both in and out of the classroom.

### **SCHEDULE**

8-8:45: Registration, continental breakfast and networking; displays of local programs and resources for building seamless strategies between classroom and community available.

8:45-9:30: Opening session: **Oak Ridge Schools' Assistant Superintendent Ken Green** will help us frame some of the issues faced by classroom and community educators and families.

9:30-9:45: Break and networking.

9:45-11:15: Split into facilitated discussion groups to identify challenges and brainstorm practical solutions for creating more effective learning environments.

11:15-11:30: Break and more networking.

11:30-1pm: Gather as a group to eat lunch and report findings.

Registration:

<http://classroomcommunitythinktank.eventbrite.com/>

## Recent Tennessee Legislation Regarding Education

The 107th Tennessee General Assembly ended their first session with the following outcomes regarding educational issues:

### **Passed**

- Charter Schools bill which removes the cap on the number of charter schools allowed in the state and opens enrollment to more students (SB 1523).
- Collective bargaining bill that prohibits districts from collective bargaining but allows them to use collaborative conferencing with teacher organizations on certain matters pertaining to teachers (HB 130).
- The lottery scholarships-disabilities bill affords students with disabilities more time to collect lottery scholarships (SB 1989).
- The teacher tenure bill requires a teacher to be on the job for five years (versus three years) and perform at high levels to be eligible for tenure (SB 1528).

### **Not Passed**

- Bill to require the election rather than appointment of school superintendents (HB 0902).
- Bill requiring students to provide their citizenship status when they register for public schools (HB 1085).
- School voucher bill which would have created a program allowing public school students in Tennessee's four largest counties to attend private or religious schools without any accountability (SB 0485).
- Bill that would have shielded teachers from discipline for allowing students to critique scientific theories like evolution or global warming (HB 0368).