

Employer Education Network Newsletter



3rd Quarter 2011, Vol. I

Important Dates and Events

Knox County Schools Information

School Calendar Events

Ribbon Cuttings

Wednesday, August 10th at 10am Ball Camp Elementary School at 9801 Middlebrook Pike

Friday, August 12th at 10am at Knox County STEM Academy at L&N Station on Henley St.

Other Events

Friday, August 12th 8:30am-12:00pm Orientation for all rising 6th & 9th Graders at middle and high schools

Monday, August 15th First day of classes for all students (1/2 day)

Thursday, August 18th at 3:30pm Knox County Joint Redistricting Committee meeting at the A.J. Building 912 Gay St.

Monday, September 5th Labor Day—No School

Thursday, September 8th School Coupon Book sales begin

Friday, September 23rd Staff Development Day—Student Holiday

Monday, September 26th School Coupon Book sales end

Thursday, September 29th 6-7pm Knox County Schools District Wide Family Engagement Advisory Council Fall meeting at the Sarah Simpson Professional Development Center

Thursday, October 6th 6-8pm Smoky Mountain Reading Council meeting at Karns Elementary School

Thursday, October 6th 6-8pm Smoky Mountain Counseling College/ Career Fair at Central High School

Wednesday, October 12th End of 1st 9 week grading period

Thursday & Friday, October 13 & 14 Fall Break

Board of Education Meeting Information—Meetings held at the A.J. Building unless otherwise noted

Work Sessions

Monday, August 29th at 5pm
Tuesday, September 6th at 5pm
Monday, October 3rd at 5pm

Regular Sessions

Wednesday, September 7th at 5pm
Wednesday, October 5th at 5pm

Knox County Council PTA Events

Friday, September 9th 9-11am "Life Long Literacy" Education Forum at the A. J. Building

Thursday, October 6th 11am—12:30pm General Meeting location to be determined.

Local Community College Information

Pellissippi State Technical Community College
<http://psctec.edu/calendar/EventList.aspx>

Roane State Community College
<http://www.roanestate.edu/?470-Schedule-of-Classes-RSCC>

Walter State Community College
<http://www.ws.edu/calendar/calendar.aspx>

Tennessee Technology Center Knoxville
<http://www.ttc-knoxville.edu/important-dates-2011>

University of Tennessee Knoxville
<http://www.utk.edu/events/events/>

Knox County Schools Host 6th & 9th Grade Orientations

On Friday, August 12 at 8:30am schools in Knox County will host orientations for rising sixth and ninth grade students. The purpose of these orientations is to help alleviate some of the anxiety associated with transitioning from one school the next. During the orientations students will have the opportunity to become familiar with and acclimated to their new school environment in small groups before the return of the entire student body. To learn more about the Knox County Schools orientations visit their website at knoxschools.org.

Friendly Reminder—Knox County School Coupons Expire in One Month!

Last year's coupons are due to expire in about one month so Knox County Schools is reminding people to use them soon. The 2011/2012 books will go on sale beginning on September 8th and the sale will run through September 26th. Books can be purchased in Knox County Schools, at participating Breadbox stores or online at knoxschools.org. The cost for the coupon books remains \$10 with schools keeping \$7.80 for each book sold.

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) is a national organization made up of a network of community-based Reading Foundations.



Support the Teacher Supply Depot

The Teacher Supply Depot has been serving the teachers of Knox County for over ten years. Established as a joint venture between Knox County Council PTA and Knox County Schools the depot serves as a collection point for donations of new and pre-used materials donated by local businesses. Four times a year the depot opens its doors for a teacher "shopping" day. All teachers and teaching assistance can attend and fill their buckets with free supplies needed for their classrooms. This year's openings will be from 7am—1pm:

August 13
October 22
January 21
March 31

The depot is open year round Monday through Friday from 9am—2pm for donations from businesses with the exception of holidays and vacation time. Also, volunteers are needed to staff the depot during their teacher openings. This is a wonderful opportunity to show support for our teachers! For more information or to make a donation visit teachersupplydepot.org or call 865-470-0750.

Vols4STEM

In 2008, the Knoxville Chamber, Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers, Knox County Schools and the Great Schools Partnership launched Vols4STEM to connect educators with science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) professionals, and share expertise with students on K-12 STEM programs, competitions and projects relating to their field. These include programs like Future Cities, MathCounts, Lego League, FIRST, Bridge-building, Engineer's Week, Science Fairs, JETS and Science Bowl. This program allows prospective volunteers to sign up and offer their help, provides information about ongoing and proposed STEM outreach activities, helps locate other professionals interested in participating in STEM programs and provides contact information for area schools, clubs, churches, neighborhoods or other settings interested in hosting such activities. Volunteers are needed for middle and high schools in Knox County and Oak Ridge. Visit vols4stem.org to learn more and to register as a volunteer.

TN Achieves Seeks Volunteer Mentors

TN Achieves is a college access, last dollar scholarship program designed to provide an opportunity for Tennessee public high school graduates to receive up to \$3,000 annually for community college tuition. Originally formed as Knox Achieves in Knox County Tennessee, TN Achieves has been introduced in 22 counties in TN. The mission of TN Achieves is to increase higher education opportunities for Tennessee students. The unique components of TN Achieves have contributed to its success. The scholarship dollars are donated by volunteers, volunteers serve as mentors to the students eliminating some of the barriers to post-secondary education and the students must give back to their communities by providing 8 hours of community service per semester. For more information about TN Achieves and to sign up as a mentor visit tnachieves.org.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Results Released

Every year schools around the county await the results of the AYP assessments. Under No Child Left Behind (NCLB), schools and school districts are measured on whether or not the students meet performance benchmarks in math, reading and attendance for 3rd-8th grades and Math, English and graduation rates for high schools. NCLB then identifies schools that have missed a federal benchmark in the same category for two consecutive years as high priority. Information about AYP can be found on the Tennessee government website at this link tn.gov/education/nclb/ayp. This site also provides information on schools and school systems results.

Did you know?

Evidence supporting post-secondary education:

- Today, individuals with Bachelor's degrees earn 84 percent more over a lifetime than those with only a high school diploma, a rise from 75 percent in 1999.
- People with lower educational attainment often make more than those with higher attainment as a result of occupational differences.
- At all levels of educational attainment, women earn about 25 percent less than men. A woman with a Bachelor's degree earns about as much as a man with some college but no degree.
- Whites earn more than other races with the same educational attainment (except Asians at the postgraduate level).

For more info: <http://cew.georgetown.edu/collegepayoff>.

Knox County School Volunteer System

A new computerized volunteer tracking system will be rolled out in Knox County Schools this fall. This system will allow teachers, administrators and other school personnel to upload requests for volunteers and supplies into a database. Volunteers and community members will have the ability to register and find a need that they can help meet. This system will allow for tracking of volunteer hours and impact. Knox County schools worked with a community advisory committee to determine the scope of the project and has contracted with a company who is finalizing the customization of the system.

For More Information

Contact Jennifer Evans at jevans@knoxvillechamber.com