Off to a strong start

Staff members at all Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) locations were invited to watch a districtwide address by Superintendent Donna Hargens and her cabinet on Tues., Aug. 12. The 36-minute presentation was viewed by employees at schools and cost centers, and they submitted questions and comments using e-mail and Twitter. In the video, Dr. Hargens discussed improvements in the district, including an enhanced effort to improve external and internal communications using a new initiative that will be labeled "JCPS Connect." To watch the complete video, click here.

Also, check out the JCPS Administrative Directory, built by Materials Production Systems Coordinator Brian Ginn. This site is accessible only on JCPS computers, and it will be updated constantly to reflect the most recent employee and department changes. This main landing page allows employees to select the directory format they prefer to use.

The Web-based, searchable format allows employees to find names, job titles, departments, and phone extensions. Other employees may prefer browsing the familiar PDF version of the directory. There is also a link to a Publications Order Form so that schools and departments can order the traditional printed-and-bound copies of the directory for $1 each. The 2014-15 Quick-Call Telephone List is a one-page document that can be printed or saved to a desktop. The document provides phone extensions of Central Office departments and bus compounds for employees who answer phones and want to provide great customer service.

Atherton Alumni to induct ten


Surplus auction

A JCPS surplus furniture and equipment auction will be held at 9 a.m. on Sat., Aug. 23, at Farmington Warehouse, 358 Farmington Avenue. For more information, call Bruce Fowler at 485-3157.

Kudos

Kudos to Katie Blackerby and Georgette Kleier, teachers at Youth Performing Arts School (YPAS). Their students performed an excerpt from Our Town Louisville, a devised theatre piece that adopts Thornton Wilder’s structure, for Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer and special guests on Fri., Aug. 15. During the summer, a group of YPAS students were invited to participate in the 2014 International Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland. The Fringe, the largest performing arts festival in the world, provided the opportunity for students to perform for a global audience as well as experience international culture and performances. The students performed Our Town Louisville, a devised theatre piece, which explores the humor, pathos, and culture of Louisville using the structure of Thornton Wilder’s quintessential American play as inspiration. Permission to use Wilder’s structure was given to the YPAS faculty and students by the Wilder estate. The production began as a class project four years ago. When the YPAS Theatre Department was invited to participate in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, directors Blackerby and Kleier decided to continue to develop the ideas of community, growing up, love and loss through an original piece. The performance includes puppetry, movement, music, juggling, and text that are used to create images and tell the stories of Louisville.

Kudos to Ricky Owens, Youth Services Center (YSC) coordinator at Thomas Jefferson Middle. Owens coordinated the school’s annual Back-to-School Festival on Sat., Aug. 2, at Thomas Jefferson Middle. More than 1,500 backpacks full of school supplies were distributed to students. Owens recruited volunteers from area churches, the fire department, the police department, YMCA, First Neighborhood Place, AmeriCorps, and Family Resource and Youth Services Centers (FRYSCs), who served alongside student volunteers.
Kudos to Sandra McLaughlin-Tabler and Mary Anne Jackson, educators at Johnson Traditional Middle. The two are also the coaches of the school’s Field Hockey Team. During the summer, the team partnered with the West Louisville Women’s Co-Op to paint bricks for a walkway that the organization is creating in west Louisville.

Kudos to Geneva Price, a specialist II in Recruitment and Staffing. Price was nominated for a JCPS Star Performer Award in February. The three people who nominated Price cited her good attitude and her prompt attention to detail. To view the narrative written about about Price, click here. To nominate an employee for a customer service award, click here.

Angela Nickels

Job title and what you do in 25 words or less: Secretary to Kirk Lattimore, assistant superintendent of Region Five. I maintain the day-to-day activities of the assistant superintendent and provide good customer service for our parents, students, and administrative and office staff.

If friends describe you, what two words are they likely to use: Efficient and helpful

Family: Husband, Greg Nickels; daughter, Shauna Nickels, 22; and son, Ronny Hays, 30, who is married to Kristin

Hometown: Louisville. I attended Semple Elementary, Southern Junior High (currently Olmsted Academy North), and duPont Manual High.

A talent you have that would surprise your colleagues: Cooking

If you’re in front of a television we might find you watching: “The Voice” because I don’t have one. I can’t even carry a tune when I sing “Happy Birthday.”

What helps you stay upbeat and positive: My faith and beliefs

Your first destination in a time machine: Go back to 1861 and meet Abe Lincoln.

The actress who would play you in the movie: Jennifer Lawrence

Discussion highlights pension challenges

The League of Women Voters of Louisville will host a forum on Kentucky’s beleaguered pension systems, including the Kentucky Teacher Retirement Systems (KTRS) and the Kentucky Retirement Systems (KRS). The Kentucky’s Precarious Pensions forum will be held at 6 p.m. on Mon., Aug. 18, at Lang House, 115 South Ewing. A dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. Speakers include Chris Tobe, a financial advisor and author of Kentucky Fried Pensions: A Culture of Cover-up and Corruption, and Jefferson County Teachers’ Association (JCTA)’s representatives Brent McKim and Tammy Berlin. Donations will be accepted for the dinner, and the public is invited. For more information, click here.

Walk supports cancer prevention

A 5K walk/run will be held at Iroquois Park at 9 a.m. on Sat., Aug. 23. The cost for each participant is $20, which includes a T-shirt. The Colon Cancer Prevention Project sponsors the event and promotes awareness of and prevention of colon cancer. For more information, click here.

Big Bash Color Dash 5K

The Family & Children’s Place will host an inaugural Big Bash Color Dash 5K on Sat., Sept. 20, at Sam Peden Community Park in New Albany. This fun, family-friendly activity will include a live band and plenty of games and activities for children of all ages. Proceeds will benefit the Family & Children’s Place. For more information, click here.

College Application Essay Workshop

Jewish Community and Family Services (JCFS) offers the College Application Essay Workshop to help students write a strong essay for college applications or scholarship opportunities. The workshop is offered from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Tues., Sept. 16, at JCFS Roth Family Center, 2821 Klempern Way. The workshop costs $45. Space is limited. To reserve a spot, call 452-6341, Ext. 222, or send an e-mail to ipoole@jfcslouisville.org.

Discover Your Superpower at Ali Center

The Muhammad Ali Center will host Discover Your Superpower, a free event for prekindergarten and elementary students and their families from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sun., Aug. 24. Several nonprofit organizations will participate in this fun event to help children become compassionate and contributing members of society. For more information, call 592-1777 or send an e-mail to info@globalgamechangers.org.

Presentation highlights chemistry

Thomas H. Crawford, a retired University of Louisville (UofL) professor of chemistry, offers 50-minute science presentations for students that involve 10 to 12 chemical demonstrations and valuable tips about preparing for the workforce. Crawford’s presentations are limited and are now being scheduled. To read a letter from Crawford, click here. For more information, call Crawford at 599-4472 or send him an e-mail at thecraw01@louisville.edu.
Archaeology field trip
Field trips during the 2014-15 school year are now being scheduled at Riverside, the Farnsley-Moreman Landing. The Building Blocks of History Program is a hands-on history experience that includes a tour of the historic home, a brick-making activity, and an actual archaeology dig led by professional archaeologists. The activity helps students meet a number of social studies and science learning goals. Admission for the full-day experience is $8 a student. Bus subsidies are available for qualifying schools. For more information, call 935-6809 or click here.

Play highlights Kentucky heritage
The Blue Apple Players offer Legends: On the Trail of Daniel Boone, a 30-minute play with a 15-minute question-and-answer session. The play is ideal for elementary students, and it applies to the literacy and performance needs of the 5x5 Fund for the Arts Grants. The deadline to register for the play is Mon., Sept. 1. For more information, call 587-7990.

Author available for students
Author and illustrator Tyrianna N.M. Wells Smith offers school visits and motivational speeches using her book, Sweet Pea & Sugar Tea’s Country Family Adventures: A Collection of African-American Poems. Readers of all ages learn to dream big, embody confidence, and make a positive difference. For more information, click here, call 298-7392, or send an e-mail to honeytreepublishingus@gmail.com.

Interested in becoming a principal?
Spalding University offers help to complete principal certification in a year and with flexible scheduling and tuition supplements. For more information, call 873-4260 or 873-4262.

http://www.jefferson.k12.ky.us/Pubs/MondayMemo/index.html