

The Learning Curve

This page was written and designed by Education First in cooperation with the Bibb County Board of Education, the Peyton Anderson Foundation, and The Telegraph.

Your weekly guide to students, schools, teachers and triumphs in Bibb County's Public Schools

Morgan Elementary to Build New Playground

Morgan Elementary has been working with KaBOOM!, a national non-profit organization, to provide their students with something they've been missing: a brand-new playground.

KaBOOM! travels the country helping to facilitate community groups with the process of building a playground in a needed area. Through a grant, they provide some of the money needed, but it is up to the local organization to find a community sponsor for the remainder of the money, as well as the volunteers needed to put the playground together.

"We are extremely excited about the KaBOOM! Playground build," says Principal Mary Sams. "We've been having events all year long to not only get the kids excited, but seek their input as well"

KaBOOM! has helped the school through every step of the process, from suggestions on how to raise money to how to organize volunteers to the design process. Part of the design process involved activities for the students where they drew out in crayon what they would like their playground to look like. Those designs were turned over to KaBOOM! who used them as a framework for the final design.

"It's great we were able to include the students," says Sams. "It gives them a sense of ownership and makes them feel like it really is *their* playground."

The build itself is not a lengthy process, which



Morgan students design their ideal playground.

works well for the school: the students don't have to stand by and watch for weeks as it is slowly constructed. KaBOOM! will come in several days before to deliver the materials, dig the holes, and lay out the site. After that, the playground will be built in just one day.

Beginning before sunrise, volunteers will be assigned different projects, fed breakfast, handed their tools (everything is built without electricity), and sent to work. By 3:30 that afternoon, the only thing left to do is wait for the concrete to dry. By Monday, the students at Morgan Elementary will have a brand new playground.

Community Partners who have come together to help Morgan Elementary students realize their dream are Home Depot, Sam's Club, Wal-Mart, Georgia Wholesale Company, Cici's Pizza, Coca-Cola, and Chik-Fil-A.

"Macon and the Morgan Elementary community have been very lucky to have KaBOOM! come back and provide their services," says Sams. This will be the fourth playground built in the Macon-Bibb Community since December 2005. Other playgrounds have been built at Barden Elementary with Education First and the Home Depot; at the Ocmulgee Riverwalk with Leadership Macon; and the most recent at Lake Tobesofkee with the Parks and Recreation Department.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Morgan Elementary at 779.4200.

Bibb County Schools Participate in Georgia Literacy Festival

The Georgia Literacy Festival is coming Friday and Saturday, November 3 and 4 to Downtown Macon. Now in its seventh year moveable feast" celebrating Georgia's rich and diverse literary heritage, is sponsored by the Georgia Center for the Book with funding assistance and support provided by the Georgia Humanities Council.

This year, the Festival will honor Maconites Sidney Clopton Lanier (1842-1881) and John Oliver Killens (1916-1987). More than 50 other writers will also be celebrated throughout the weekend with readings, workshops, book signings, panel discussions, storytelling, a book fair and presentations. Most of the Festival will occur on the corridor between St. Joseph's Church and the Washington Memorial Library.

The festival is directed by Historic Macon Foundation partnering with the Middle Georgia Regional Library, Friends of the Library, Inc., Mercer University, Wesleyan College, Macon state college, Macon-Bibb County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Macon Arts, and *The Telegraph*. Sponsors include *The Telegraph*, Cox Communications, Robins Federal Credit Union, GEICO, Medical Center of Central Georgia, and Security Bank.

For more information or a detailed schedule of events, visit www.georgialiteraryfestival.org.

School Performances Mainstage November 4, 2006

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| 10:00 a.m. - Jessie Rice Elementary Poetry reading | 1:30 p.m. - King-Danforth Elementary Reader's Theater & Two Part Poems |
| 10:15 a.m. - Rosa Taylor Elementary Puppet Play | 2:00 p.m. - Howard Middle Gifted class poetry recitation |
| 10:30 a.m. - Alexander II Elementary Original poetry & Reader Theater | 2:30 p.m. - Vineville Academy Reading poetry & fiction |
| 10:45 a.m. - Burdell-Hunt Elementary | 3:00 p.m. - Rutland High |
| 11:00 a.m. - Skyview Elementary WRAP Café | 3:30 p.m. - Springdale Elementary Humorous poetry readings |
| 11:25 a.m. - Central High School | 3:45 p.m. - Northeast High Media Club, Literary Club poetry readings |
| 11:35 a.m. - Sonny Carter Elementary Re-creation of P is for Peach | |
| 1:00 p.m. - Brookdale Elementary Choral reading | |

November in Bibb County Schools

November is National Native American Heritage Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 • Registration Deadline for Dec 2 SAT Exam • Heard Elem Krispy Kreme Donut Sale begins for Washington trip • Lane Elem Canned Food Drive Begins • Miller Middle Boo Bash Incentive Party, 12:00-2:00 p.m. • Porter Elem Accelerated Reader Party	2 • Burdell-Hunt Elem Family Math Night, 6:00-7:00 p.m. • Burghard Elem Family Reading Night, 6:00-7:30 p.m. • Heard Elem Artists in the Classroom, 4th & 5th Grades • Heard Elem Family Night at El Colija's • Rice Elem 4th grade attends GrandKids Discover Theater	3 • Registration Deadline for Dec 9 ACT Exam • Georgia Literacy Festival • Central Football vs West Laurens, Thompson, 7:30 p.m. • Southwest vs Peach County, Henderson, 7:30 p.m. • Westside vs Northside, Sports Complex, 7:30 p.m. • Burdell-Hunt Elem Fall Festival, 3:30-6:00 p.m. • Heard Elem School Fair • Morgan Elem 4th graders trip to Grand Opera House • Cici's Pizza Night for Rice Elem • Riley Elem Fall Festival, 4:00-6:00 p.m. • Skyview Elem Grandparents Tea, Media center • Skyview Elem 2nd grade fieldtrip to the Centenary Westside High Senior Retreat	4 • Georgia Literacy Festival • SAT
5	6	7 • Election Day, Don't Forget to Vote! • Lane Elem Stei B's Pizza Night, 4:00-9:00 p.m. • Porter Elem Family Night Spaghetti Supper, 5:30-7:30 p.m. • Skyview Elem PTO Executive Board Meeting, 6:00 pm	8 • Mid-Terms Go Home • Heard Elem 4th Grade field trip, Grand Opera House • Riley Elem Parent Workshop, 1:00-2:30 p.m.	9 • Burdell-Hunt Elem "Arts in the Classroom," Macon Symphony Orchestra, Trip • Burdell-Hunt Elem School Council Meeting, 3:45 p.m. • Morgan Elem Build-a-Playground Day, 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. • Morgan Elem Neighborhood Watch Meeting, 5:30 p.m. • Macon Symphony Orchestra performs at Rice Elem • Porter Elem 4th Grade Grand Kids Field Trip • Porter Elem Holiday Pictures • Rice Elem PTO Meeting, 6:00 p.m., 2nd Grade Performance • Skyview Elem 4th grade fieldtrip to the Grand Opera	10 • Burdell-Hunt Elem Veteran's Day Celebration, 10:00 a.m. • Lane Elem PTA Executive Board, 1:30 p.m. • Morgan Elem Cici's Pizza Day • Skyview Elem Pre-K fieldtrip to Wild Rose Dairy Farm	11 • Veterans' Day
	Nov. 3-10 - Skyview Book Fair • Nov. 6-10 - Graduation Test Retakes • Nov. 6-10 - Rice Elem Book Fair					
12	13 • Central High Breakfast and Books, 7:00 a.m. • Westside High School Council Election	14 • Central High Orchestra Performance, Vineville Academy • Morgan PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m. • Porter Elem PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	15 • Lane Elem Thanksgiving Day Lunch • Westside High Progress Reports Go Home	16 • Board of Education Meeting, Bruce Elementary, 6:00 p.m. • Burdell-Hunt Elem Parents' Workshop, Parents Writing Stories • Riley Elem Parent Thanksgiving Lunch	17 • Lane Elem School Council Meeting, 1:30 p.m. • Rice Elem Fall Celebration, Music on the Grounds • MOID class fieldtrip, Oaks Emu Farm	18
	Nov. 12-18 • American Education Week • Nov.12-18 - Children's Book Week Begins • Nov. 13-20 - Central High Fall Voucher Book Fair @ Barnes & Noble					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Nov. 20-24 - Thanksgiving Break					
26	27 • Riley Elem Gift Shop Opens • Westside High Blood Drive	28 • Porter Elem School Council Meeting • Quiz Bowl @ Rice Elem, 9:30 am • Riley Elem Parent Workshop: Adult Education, 10:00 a.m. • Westside High Seniors Put Up Christmas Tree	29	30 • Central High Blood Drive, 8:50 a.m. • Heard Elem PTA, 7:00PM • Central High Faculty Talent Show, 5:00-9:00 p.m.		

We want your feedback! Please e-mail your comments and suggestions for "The Learning Curve" or information about events in the Bibb County school system to: cfloore@cbi.mgacoxmail.com or call 743-0023

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