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December 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Happy Birthday, Lacey Johnson!
2	3	4	5	6 Students Dismissed @ 12:10- Staff Meeting	7 Happy Birthday, Mrs. Holmest	8 ACT Testing
9 Happy Birthday, Ms. Stamper!	10	11	12	13 Poetry Out Loud Selection	14 Scholastic Art/Writing Deadline	15
16	17 Exams Begin	18	19	20	21 Students Dismissed @ 11:00	22
23	24 Christmas	25	26	27 Happy Birthday, Sarah Weathersby!	28 Happy Birthday, Ms. Smith!	29
30	31	Vacation - students return Jan. 7, 2013				

Coming up in January 2013

- Jan. 4th: Second quarter report cards mailed.
- Jan. 21st: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Jan. 30th: Poetry Out Loud Regional Contest - Our school's champion will compete against students from other central Mississippi high schools in order to advance to the state finals in March.
- Jan. 31st: Parents & Kids Magazine Special Needs Symposium - 7-9 PM @ Covenant Pres. Church

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www.facebook.com/EducationCenterSchool

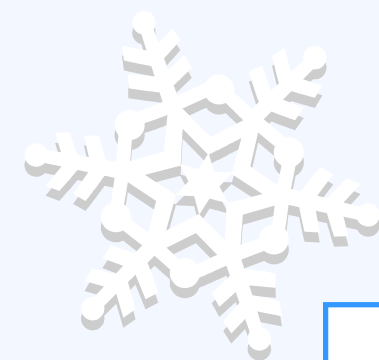
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Merry Christmas
from
The Education
Center School



These ornaments were created by the students in Mrs. Miller and Ms. Orsulak's art classes for the Parents & Kids Magazine Christmas Fest. Our school chose a nature theme that reflects Mississippi's state symbols. What amazing and creative decorations!



Wings®

The Newsletter of The Education Center



November/December Volume 12, Issue 4

It's Christmas Time in the City: Getting Into the Holiday Spirit at Fondren Unwrapped

The holiday season kicked off with a bang this year with Fondren Unwrapped on November 15th. This yearly event brings local businesses, restaurants, artists, and schools together for a festive night of holiday fun. With concerts, giveaways, Santa Claus, and a Christmas tree lighting, Fondren Unwrapped gets everybody into the Christmas spirit, including us here at ECS!

As guests walked around Fondren, sampling food and doing some early Christmas shopping, they were treated to a sidewalk art exhibition sponsored by BankPlus. This "art explosion" featured work by students from local schools. Ms. Orsulak's art classes produced several pieces for this event.



A piece by Ms. Orsulak's art class

These colorful portraits were created by first dividing a famous painting into eight separate sections, and then having each student re-create a different section. The pieces were then put back together to form one whole painting. This unique project put an emphasis on both collaboration and individual style - two important elements of art.



Mrs. Miller and the elementary choir performing at Fondren Unwrapped

Musical performances were another highlight of the evening. Strolling musicians serenaded visitors, while youth symphonies and rock bands played holiday set lists. This year our elementary choir, led by Mrs. Miller, performed as part of the BankPlus Concert Series at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. They sang a medley of classic carols, including "Silent Night" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." They will take their show on the road and perform at Manhattan Nursing & Rehab on December 19th. Senior Seth Hersey closed out the performance with a lovely rendition of "O Come, All Ye Faithful" on cello.

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Dates to Remember

- ◆ December 17 - Exams Begin
- ◆ December 21 - Students Dismissed at 11:00
- ◆ December 24 - January 4 - Christmas Vacation
- ◆ January 4 - Report Cards Mailed
- ◆ January 7 - Students Return



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ECS Homecoming 2012: Welcome Back!

Since Martha Thomas Kabbes founded ECS in 1964, forty-eight years have come and gone, but one thing stays constant: the sense of family we share with our students, parents, faculty, staff, and friends. This year, to celebrate our wonderful ECS family, we held an afternoon Homecoming Reception on October 26th.

Student council officers greeted people as they came in the door. Visitors signed the guest registry, then stopped by the conference room for punch, snacks,

and conversation. Nearby classrooms had old scrapbooks on display, including one filled with pictures from the 1972 opening reception for the secondary building.

We had a great time visiting with everyone! See you next year!

Top right:

Varah Potter, Student Council Co-President, and Lynn Williams, former teacher and school development director

Bottom right:

Lynn T. Macon, director; Ruth Ann Rigby, Class of 1981; and Spencer Powers, former teacher



Spreading Our Wings - School Events

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Every month, the faculty and administration nominate students who exhibit leadership, a positive work ethic, and dedication. The October & November Students of the Month are:

Elementary - Zachary Hoggatt and Jaden Smith

Jr. High - Jada Brown

9th Grade - Joseph Johnson and John Watson

10th grade - Savannah Walker

11th grade - Mallory Risinger

12th grade - Rosalyn Anderson and Lindsay Dawson

1ST QUARTER HONOR ROLL

Students who achieved Honor Roll status for the first quarter are:

Honors:

Andrew Bryant, Joshua Collins, Keith Gates, Connor Grindstaff, Kayla Harris, Joseph Johnson, Lacey Johnson, Mark Macke, Tinsley Martin, Karah Potter, Dyson Smith, Jaden Smith, Kirk Wells, and Rachael Wingard

Select Honors:

Rosalyn Anderson

Great job, everybody!

PRINCIPAL'S PAPERS

Dear parents and guardians,

There is a flurry of activity as we head towards the end of our first term. Our students are very busy preparing for the upcoming semester exams and completing any projects that are due. Everyone is anticipating Christmas break and looking forward to spending time with family and friends.

At the end of the first semester, the success and progress our students achieve make us very proud not only of their efforts, but of the efforts of our faculty, staff, parents, and friends. No



school year would be complete without you!

The last day of school will be Friday, December 21, 2012. All students will be dismissed at 11:00 am. Students will return on Monday, January 7, 2013. We are anticipating an even better second semester!

Have a wonderful Christmas that fills your homes with joy, peace, and love! Best wishes for the New Year! May the promises of hope, prosperity, and success that a new year brings be recognized for all of you in 2013.

-Ms. Deborah J. Stamper

Student Spotlight: Lindsay Dawson



Six months ago Lindsay Dawson entered a local model search on a whim. Now she's on the cover of *VIP Jackson Magazine* and featured in their twelve-page holiday fashion spread. Next stop: fashion week?

After winning their search, Lindsay has been an online model for Libby Story, a Ridgeland boutique known for their "trendy vintage" clothing and accessories. Stop by the store sometime - you might see her modeling in person!

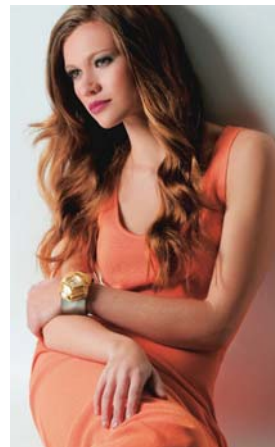
VIP Jackson asked Lindsay to be on the cover and inside spread of their December issue. In the feature, titled "Merry & Bright: Dressing for Any Holi-

day Occasion," Lindsay models looks from local clothing stores, including Arco Avenue (left) and CoatTails (right). Although this is Lindsay's first magazine job, these gorgeous shots prove she is a natural talent.

Lindsay, a senior, plans on graduating early in order to pursue a career in modeling. She loves the work - and the clothes. "You should see her room," her mom jokes. We wish her the best!

Lindsay is the daughter of Billy & Joy Dawson of Brandon.

Be sure to check out Lindsay in this month's *VIP Jackson*, on sale now!



Alumni Spotlight: Becki Hicks, Class of 2000

Becki Hicks has always had her own unique style. Even at age 10, she would help customers in her grandmother's boutique put together outfits and accessories. Today she puts her expert fashion sense to work as the manager and buyer of The Shoe Bar @ Pieces here in Fondren.

Becki and her grandmother Kaye Simmons, the owner, recently celebrated 19 years in business. Kaye opened the store on Lakeland Drive in 1993 under its original name, Designer Shoe Palace. After Lakeland grew too crowded, the store was moved to its current location on Mitchell Avenue in 2007, with Becki playing a key role in the reinvention. They began to focus on items for women who want something different - items that break the mold.

While Becki was attending Holmes Community College, she began to attend buying markets with Kaye in Los Angeles and New York. "We enjoy those particular markets because we want the latest in fashion and unique things no one in our area has seen yet," she says.

Becki's style is glamorous, funky, and most of all, fun, making her a perfect match for both The Shoe Bar and Fondren. She always seems to have an eye for the "next big thing;" she finds the fashion that you never knew you would love! Becki lives with her husband Reece Hicks in Jackson.

For updates, remember to like The Shoe Bar @ Pieces on Facebook and follow their Twitter, @ShoeBarPieces!



Planting the Promise to Stay Drug & Alcohol Free

Each year at ECS, we celebrate two very important dates in October: Make a Difference Day, a national day dedicated to community service, and Red Ribbon Week, during which students pledge to keep themselves and their communities drug and alcohol free.



Kimberly Young helps plant tulips at YANA Club

This year we chose the Red Ribbon Week-inspired "Plant the Promise" as our Make a Difference Day project. Students, friends, parents, faculty, and alumni gathered on the morning of October 27th to plant red tulips, which are a declaration of love that mean "believe me."

After a delicious breakfast prepared by participants, we grabbed our pots, bulbs, pea gravel, and trowels and got down to business. Everyone lent a (dirt-covered) hand, from shoveling soil to arranging tulip bulbs.

While most of us were planting pots, a small group went over to the nearby YANA Club. There they planted a bed of red tulip bulbs in the club's front yard. We were so honored and grateful to have YANA's support in this project.



Ms. Orsulak and Caitlyn Brown prepare bulbs

At the end of the day, we planted over 1000 bulbs, making our project a huge success! When the potted tulips bloom in the spring, we will give them to Fondren area schools, businesses, and churches to serve as a reminder that "the best me is drug free." Thank you so much to all of our donors and volunteers - you make a difference every day!

Junior and Senior News

The next **Get2College Center ACT Workshop** will be at Millsaps College on **January 26, 2013, at 8:00 a.m.** This workshop is great preparation for the February 9, 2013, test date. The following workshop is on April 6, 2013. **Go to www.esfweb.com to register. REGISTRATION OPENS on December 20th for the January workshop! Be sure to register quickly - seats fill up fast!**

The next **ACT Test date is February 9, 2013.** Regular registration deadline is **January 11, 2013**, and late registration (\$21.00 late fee) ends January 18. Although the ***(TIR) Test Information Release (\$18.00)** is not available in February, it is available for both the **April and June tests.** This service will send you your test booklet, your answers, and the correct answers - perfect for test prep! Go to

www.actstudent.org for more information and to register for upcoming tests.

DO YOU KNOW? - **Make an appointment with the Get2College Center to discuss financial aid, careers, and college advice.** Their counselors are the experts on the FAFSA, MTAG, scholarships, and anything else you need to know for college. Call today! (601) 321-5533.

UPCOMING ACT DATES:

February 9, 2013

April 13, 2013*

MS FINANCIAL AID:
www.mississippi.edu/riseupms

EDUCATION SERVICES
FOUNDATION (ESF) and THE
GET2COLLEGE CENTER:
www.esfweb.com

Students Participate in Upcoming Art Competitions



Each year many ECS students participate in two rewarding art competitions.

Poetry Out Loud is a recitation contest that builds students' public speaking skills through exposure to great poetry. High school students will compete on

December 13th for the opportunity to represent our school at the regional contest on January 30th.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards recognize incredible artwork by high school students throughout the country. Our students will enter their pieces, including paintings, photographs, and sculptures, on December 14th. Winners will be announced on January 9th.

Good luck to our talented kids!

Junior Performs in Ballet Magnificat! Production

Looking for some great entertainment this holiday season? Come see junior Symphonia Harris in Ballet Magnificat!'s *Snow Queen*. This original production, based on the beloved Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale, features dynamic choreography, stunning sets, and beautiful costumes and makeup. Order your tickets today!

Snow Queen
December 14 -16, 2012
Thalia Mara Hall
www.balletmagnificat.com

