

December 2006

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Calendar of Events

Autumn, Winter and Spring Holidays - There are a number of secular and religious holidays that some JCPS students, staff and faculty will observe, or have already observed, this year and in the spring. Some holidays include:

- Ramadan (September 23 to October 23, Islamic)
- Diwali (October 21, Hindu)
- Bodhi Day (December 8, Buddhist)
- Hannukkah (December 16-23, Jewish)
- Christmas (December 25, or January 7 for some Orthodox Christians, Christian)
- Boxing Day (December 26, British)
- Chinese New Year (February, Chinese)
- Kwanzaa (December 26 to January 1, African American)
- Las Posadas (December 16-24, Mexican/Christian)
- Norouz (March, Iranian/Persian)
- Passover (April 2-10, Jewish)
- Easter (falls on April 8 in both the eastern and western churches this year, Christian)

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To view additional upcoming holidays, refer to <http://www.jcpsky.net/Programs/mcconnections/calendar.html>

***Last Friday of Every Month** - Join 89.3 WFPL for "Different Diasporas" and explore Louisville's immigrant communities. 89.3 WFPL broadcasts the program on the last Friday of each month at 6:40 a.m. and 8:40 a.m. WFPL's Rick Howlett explores Louisvillians of various descent and their origins and current status in the community.

In addition to the on-air coverage, the WFPL website contains companion resources including archived audio, slide shows and links to related sites. You can listen to the archive of "Different Diasporas in Louisville" features online at: www.wfpl.org/different_diasporas/index.shtml

More information is available on this and all 89.3 FM programming from www.wfpl.org or contact Heidi Caravan at hcaravan@wfpl.org and (502) 814-6553.

December 8, 10 a.m to 1 p.m. - Jefferson County Public Schools English as a Second Language Department Open House. The open house will be held at the Hazelwood Elementary ESL Intake Center, 1325 Bluegrass Ave.

***December 10, 6 p.m.** - "The Current Problems in the Middle East," presented by St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church, in cooperation with the Community Relations Council of the Louisville Jewish Federation. Ambassador Afif Safieh, Palestinian Representative to the United States, and Yossi Alpher, a former member of the Israeli Defence Forces and currently a writer, will discuss and propose solutions to the current problems in the Middle East. International mediator Jim Wehrle will moderate the discussion.

The conference will be held in the St. Michael Church Hall, 3026 Hikes Lane. The event will start with a Middle Eastern dinner followed by the two speakers. The audience will have ample time for questions.

For ticket information, contact Kenneth George at (502) 489-5568, Knobby Metry (502) 454-4021, or Mary Jean at (502) 451-884.

***December 11, 4 p.m.** - "Louisville's International Population Is Growing: A World of Opportunities and Challenges," presented by the Metro Louisville Office for International Affairs. Join Mayor Jerry E. Abramson and special guest speaker Dr. Randy Capps of the Urban Institute for the launch of a report about Metro Louisville's international-born population. The event will be held at Glassworks, 815 W. Market Street. Reservations are required. For more information, contact joanne.lloyd@louisvilleky.gov

Support for this report was provided through a partnership between the Louisville Metro Office for International Affairs and Americana Community Center, with funding provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, C.E.&S. Foundation, Inc., KentuckianaWorks and Greater Louisville Inc.

***December 11, 6 p.m.** - "The Middle East: Is Peace Possible?," a Global Issues Forum with Afif Safieh, Palestinian Representative to the United States, presented by the World Affairs Council of Kentucky/Southern Indiana. The forum will be held at the Kentucky Center Bomhard Theater. Tickets for this event may be purchased at the Kentucky Center or by calling the Center Box Office at 584-7777.

***December 12 and 13, 7 p.m.** - August Moon will offer a world-class Dutch-Indonesian culinary experience at August Moon Bistro, 2269 Lexington Road. Louisville will have a rare opportunity to enjoy world-renowned Dutch-Indonesian cuisine, "edible art," and cultural presentations in a five-course meal designed and prepared by nationally renowned Chef Peng S. Looi of August Moon and Asiatique. Chef Looi has traveled the world to develop a unique style of cooking that is filled with passion, pride, and energy, and promises to bring a unique twist to Dutch-Indonesian cuisine that will make for a leisurely and interesting evening for each and every guest. Dr. John Gilderbloom of the University of Louisville will also speak on Dutch culture and traditions.

For tickets or more information, contact Carrie Beth Lasley, U of L student treasurer, at 852-8921, or email carriebfl@hotmail.com

January 19 - Because of the two week holiday break, an abbreviated edition of *Global Connections* will be published in January. If you would like to submit an item for the January edition, please send your submission to the editor at catherine.collesano@jefferson.kyschools.us by January 12.

February 2 - Readers will receive the regular edition of *Global Connections* in February. If you would like to submit an item for the February edition, please send your submission to the editor at catherine.collesano@jefferson.kyschools.us by January 25.

*These items were provided by Lindsay Carter from the Louisville Metro Office for International Affairs. The items first appeared in the LMOIA Weekly Update.

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Updates from the Center for Environmental Education

U of L Students and JCPS Team Up for Research on Physical Education

submitted by [Dr. David Wicks](#), Coordinator, JCPS Center for Environmental Education, and [Rachel Knecht](#), graduate student, University of Louisville

Rachel Knecht and Jenny Cundliff, two MA students in the University of Louisville Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, are working closely with JCPS on a project concerning Bill 172 that allows them to put their research training into action in the community. Ms. Knecht and Ms. Cundliff are co-directing the research in collaboration with Dr. David Wicks and Donna

The primary purpose of their research is to look at how Bill 172, which allows for 30 minutes of physical activity to count as instructional time, has impacted elementary school students' behavior. A sample of classrooms from several schools will be targeted in order to examine the general hypothesis that implementation of Bill 172 will result in better, overall classroom behavior in elementary students.

Third grade elementary students from twenty-five different classrooms around Jefferson County Public Schools will be participants in this study. These classrooms will be randomly selected from a list of schools which currently do not have physical education as part of their curriculum. Ms. Knecht and Ms. Cundiff will administer a questionnaire for teachers which asks about the specific activities teachers are applying within their classrooms. Teachers will also be asked to rate the overall behavior of their classroom based on some standardized scales that measure conduct, behavior and school engagement. The research is a first step in analyzing the link between physical education and children's behavior and it will also include discussions with teachers. The main goal of this research is to determine how physical activity relates to classroom behaviors. Ms. Knecht and Ms. Cundiff hope the study is just the first of a series of studies to tackle this important problem.

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Environmental News and Resources

Advocating Environmental Education and Environmental Justice

by [J. Allen Johnson](#), Esq, Executive Director, Race Relations Council of Northwest Indiana

In a time when the threat of climate crisis looms increasingly more eminent, the challenge for environmental educators to play a leading role could not be more pronounced. For many years, environmentalist educators have drawn a line between environmental education and environmental justice. Similarly, advocating on behalf of the environment and environmental justice was interpreted outside the realm of "pure" environmental education.

Whatever the rationale for the traditional views, the looming crisis of climatic disruption suggests a more expanded understanding of the definition of "environmental education" must be candidly considered by the field. There can be little doubt that the priorities of the policymakers in many leadership positions tend to reflect a commitment to strategies diametrically opposed to those required if we are to reverse the green house gas emissions to the extent necessary to begin to heal the Earth.

At the Fifth National Conference on Science, Policy, and the Environment held in Washington D. C. on February 3-4, 2005, Dr. James Gustave Speth, Dean, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, assessed in his plenary address that " I think we must acknowledge for

decades we have thrown outstanding science, attractive analysis, innumerable warnings....*with limited response.*" Moreover, he stated that " there is the disturbingly low environmental and energy literacy of the public..." Dr. Speth was examining whether the rational framework traditionally employed by scientists was up to the challenge of communicating to the American public the urgency of global climate issues.

While we may feel confident about how we, as environmental educators, do our job, decisions will continue to be driven by special interest groups more concerned with profits than with a sustainable ecological system. Hence, there needs to be a tenfold increase in the number of Americans attuned to making environmental global concerns more of a priority. One approach to increasing the "choir" is to include more voices. By expanding our definition of environmental education to include environmental justice, the potential audiences of those impacted by environmental injustices, primarily communities of color or low income, are countless. Such outreach will require adjustments in approach, language and content. However, if we view environmental education as the "antidote" to the crisis we are facing, it is extremely critical to provide access to that antidote to as many different people in our communities as possible.

Painting with a broad brush, we may safely conclude people are generally supportive of that which is of interest and material to their needs. I urge us to seriously think of strategies and approaches to create a more environmentally literate American public. In doing so we increase the choir, are able to diversify the harmony and deepen our ability to impact decision-makers in a way that can be more sustainable for everyone.

May it be said, that when humanity confronted its greatest challenge, there arose a group of Americans, not politicians or philosophers, but environmental educators that stood like Titans and spearheaded the change needed to put the species on the road to sustainability. This is the time and opportunity to leave such a legacy.

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Middletown Elementary Wins Grant in Recognition of Environmental Activities

Congratulations to Middletown Elementary School for receiving the 2006 Operation Brightside First Place School Award! Middletown PTA, students, and staff members were involved in completing many environmental projects over the last several years in order to receive this recognition.

Examples of such environmental projects are a school-wide PTA Campus Beautification Project including a butterfly garden, a classroom garden used by Mrs. Lana Thomas' kindergarten students, the PTA Cash for Trash recycling project, the PTA winter bird feeder project called the Giving Tree, and several Environmental Weeks sponsored by the PTA. One of the most successful projects has been the Butterfly Release Charity Project in which students raised nearly \$15,000 for a family in need and released butterflies at a school-wide event spearheaded by Mrs. Linda Schweickhardt and her fourth grade class.



Students from Middletown Elementary's STLP plant trees at William F. Miles Park. The project was funded by the 2006 Operation Brightside Award, matching grants from Process Machinery and Cinergy Corporation, and by a discretionary fund contribution from Louisville Metro Councilman Hal Heiner.



Middletown Elementary students receive help as they plant a tree at Williams F. Miles Park. Louisville Metro Parks staff and individuals from Eastern High School and Central High School assisted the students with the project.

and on the Middletown School campus, and preparing fliers and posters for the William F. Miles Community Gardens. In addition, STLP students researched birds sited at Miles Park and posted reports and photos on the MSD website (click the Education link at the bottom of www.msdlouky.org).

Receiving the award was a great honor for Middletown Elementary and happened due to the efforts of many people in the school and local community.

The Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP) and its sponsor, Linda Arnold, authored the Brightside grant application. Using the \$2,500 Brightside grant funds and a matching \$2,500 grant from Process Machinery of Shelbyville, Middletown STLP students participated in a project called STAT! (Student Technology and Trees) at William F. Miles Park at Eastwood in November. Cinergy Corporation matched the Brightside and Process Machinery grants, and Hal Heiner, Louisville Metro Councilman, contributed \$4,500 from his discretionary funds for tree purchases.

Assisted by Louisville Metro park ranger Bennett Knox and STLP students from Central and Eastern High, Middletown students planted trees at William F. Miles Park, tagged them using Global Positioning System (GPS) devices, and will continue to assist Knox in tracking the growth and survival rates of the trees. Shawn Canaday of Central High and Ryan Deal of Eastern High made a GPS presentation to the students. Students will visit the park again later this winter and spring. Early in 2007, Eastern's ROTC students will help plant approximately 1500 smaller trees. Middletown Elementary thanks Jerry Walker, Eastern's STLP coordinator, for his school's involvement in the project.

Other recent Middletown STLP environmental projects include establishing a recognized Kentucky Bluebird Trail (sponsored by the Kentucky Bluebird Society and Eastern Kentucky University), mulching and weeding at Miles Park

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Updates from the Multicultural Education Office

Free U of L Repertory Company Performances for JCPS Teachers and Students

by [Catherine Collesano](#), Editor, *Global Connections*

The University of Louisville Repertory Company is once again offering free performances for K-12 teachers and students. This school year the company will present *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* for grades K-5 and *Teens Sound Off* for grades 8-12. The Repertory Company will visit your school to perform the plays on-site. Teacher guides for both plays will be available upon scheduling a performance date.

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters is a colorful version of the Cinderella story set in Zimbabwe and presented in the African tradition. Its heartfelt message is that true beauty comes from within. Directed by Dr. Lundeana Thomas, *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* is told with songs, dances, and audience participation.

Teens Sound Off is adapted and directed by Laura Early from *The Courier-Journal's* High School Round Table. This interactive play explores the viewpoints of contemporary teens and their role in society. Teens "sound off" on issues such as stereotypes, technology, 9/11, and the war in Iraq. In addition, the actors engage student audiences in the discussion.

To reserve a performance date, please contact Joy Meeks at 852-5922.

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Cultural Diversity News and Resources

2007 Academic WorldQuest Competition - Your School is Invited!

Provided by the [World Affairs Council of Kentucky and Southern Indiana](#)

Submitted by [Catherine Collesano](#), Editor, *Global Connections*

The World Affairs Council of Kentucky and Southern Indiana is proud to announce the 2007 Academic WorldQuest Competition. High school teams will compete at Bellarmine University in Louisville, KY on March 3, 2007 with a chance to go on to the national competition in Washington, D.C. on the weekend of March 23-25, 2007. Registration is due February 17, 2007 by 5:00 p.m.

Hosted by the World Affairs Council and sponsored locally by the Louisville Metro Government, Bellarmine University, and the Federal Mediations and Conciliation Service, the Academic WorldQuest Competition is a team game that tests competitors' knowledge of international affairs, geography, history, culture, flags, sports, current events, prominent newsmakers, economics, international organizations, and more.

The Academic WorldQuest Competition supplements the Kentucky Association for Academic Competition's Kentucky Governor's Cup and does not conflict with the Kentucky Governor's Cup competition or SAT/ACT/CATS test dates.

For more information, contact Matt Madden at 561-5422 or at matt.madden@wacaky-in.org and visit the WACAKY-IN website at <http://www.wacaky-in.org>.

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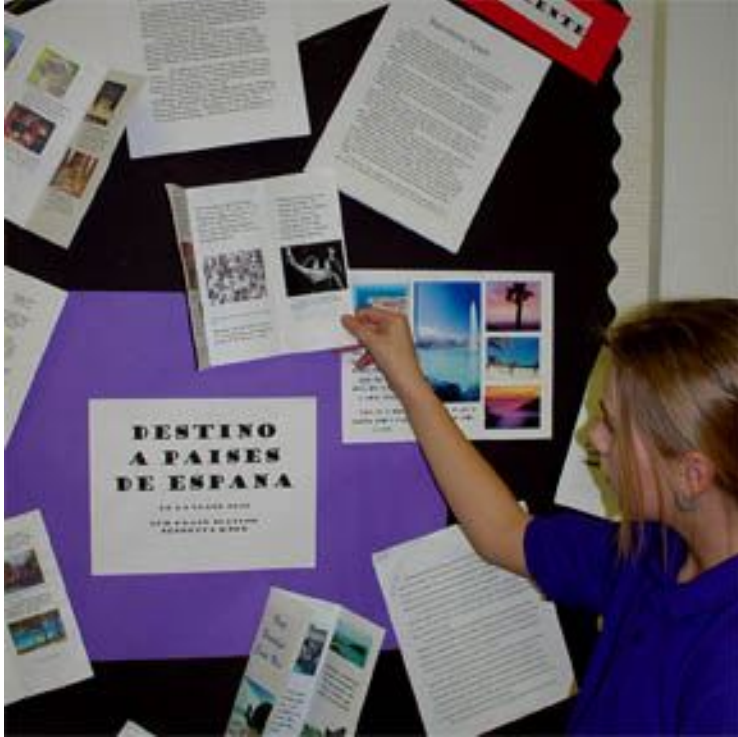
Barret Traditional Middle School students proudly display their travel brochures and essays. From left to right: Austin Morris, Bittany Sanderson, Morgan Carter, Rachael Atkinson, and Connor Fitzpatrick

Barret Students Explore Hispanic Cultures

by [Jennifer Knox](#), 6th grade Spanish teacher, Barret Traditional Middle School

As a 6th grade Spanish teacher at Barret Traditional Middle School, I am excited to share the news about a project my students created to explore Hispanic cultures. Our project had three important components: the initial research to familiarize students with Spanish-speaking countries; the process of writing a persuasive essay; and the process of designing a brochure with photographs and details about a trip that would entice travelers to a Spanish-speaking destination.

The students spent six weeks researching the



Barret Middle School student Brittany Sanderson reads one of the travel brochures on display in the school's cafeteria.

Hispanic cultures of South America, Central America, Mexico, and Spain. Each student selected a Spanish-speaking country that interested them and then assumed the role of "travel agent." In this role, the students wrote persuasive essays convincing a customer to visit the country the student had selected. There were many steps the students had to take for the persuasive essay - from the initial writing, to the editing, and to the final draft. Once the students completed their persuasive essays, they fine tuned them to create a travel brochure about their chosen country or city, highlighting how long a trip to the country would be and which cities the traveler would visit. The students saw films on all of the countries, learned about aspects of various Hispanic cultures and then worked in the computer lab to design their brochures. The project was a different twist on learning for the 6th grade Spanish classes.

The students' project was a tremendous success! The phenomenal part of the project was that 120 students became deeply involved in it. They could not wait to produce their brochures. Almost every Spanish-speaking culture in South America, Central America, Mexico, the Canary Islands and Spain was represented in the project, and the brochures and essays are now on display on Barret's cafeteria bulletin board. The project went way beyond what I even thought the students were capable of, especially starting at ground zero. What a pleasant surprise!

We were also excited that the [Louisville Courier-Journal wrote a feature story about this project in the Metro section](#) of the newspaper's November 27, 2006 edition. The Journal was extremely impressed with the process of the project and the students' final products. *Courier-Journal* reporter Nancy C. Rodriguez and photographer Keith Williams visited Barret and photographed the students at work, which should be a great push for multicultural education programs in JCPS.

Sixth-grade Spanish student Hope Wilding created a brochure featuring Costa Rica. [Click here to view a PDF copy](#) of her brochure. [Click here to view it](#) as a Word document.

Note to readers: If the above link to the *Courier-Journal* article expires, please contact the editors of the newspaper to obtain a copy. You may also contact the JCPS Diversity/Multicultural Education Office at (502) 485-7075 to borrow (but not replicate) a copy of the *Courier-Journal's* article.

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Read the Global Education Yellow Pages

Provided by *Global TeachNet*, the National Peace Corps Association

Submitted by Judy Lippmann

The Global Ed Yellow Pages, a directory of global education resources for K-12 teachers, is now on-line at www.globaledyellowpages.org

The website contains approximately 1,000 entries, many of which link to additional global education sources. The directory is organized into categories such as area studies, the arts, business and economics education, civic education, environmental education, foreign language, global education, human rights, peace studies, sustainability education, world history, and many more. Featured are teaching materials, technology, travel and exchange programs, and information on conferences and publications. There is a special section that describes actual global education programs in primary, middle, and high schools.

The directory will be updated semi-annually. If you want to add or delete an entry or if you wish to update or change an entry, contact Ken Tye at ktye@chapman.edu

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Global Connections: Staying in Touch with Culture and Environment is a monthly publication of the JCPS Office of Equity, Diversity and Multicultural Education and the JCPS Center for Environmental Education. All submissions to the newsletter must be sent to Catherine Collesano, Editor, at catherine.collesano@jefferson.kyschools.us or fax (502) 485-3762 the Friday before the publication date. If you are interested in becoming a subscriber or a contributor to *Global Connections*, please contact the editor at the above email address.

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